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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Ministerial Council Meets in Baghdad

Ramadan Welcomes Delegations

JN1004145689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council, which includes Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], began its first meeting at the Conferences Palace here this afternoon.

The Iraqi side to the meeting was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; the Jordanian side was headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; the Egyptian side was headed by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi; and the YAR side was headed by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

At the beginning of the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a speech welcoming the fraternal delegations, and said: The first meeting of the Ministerial Council is intended to prepare ways to implement the great principles stated in the ACC Charter.

Prime Ministers Make Statements

JN1004160089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has said: We are confident that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] step is completely in harmony with the Arab nation's circumstances and is intended to link the four countries.

In a statement to a Baghdad radio correspondent today, he said: I am confident we are pursuing the path of unity through cooperation, study, trust, and contribution by the largest possible popular base, as we are currently planning. He added: We are moving toward the goals for which we have struggled for long years.

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said that the ACC Ministerial Council meetings, which will begin in Baghdad today, is the first step approved by the four countries' leaders in Baghdad on 16 February and that the meetings are intended to draw up the organizational and administrative frameworks for the start of work in the ACC. Sidqi also said that the meetings are also viewed as an executive step of the meeting of the four countries' presidents and kings in Cairo in May.

In a statement to Baghdad radio today, he said: By this step we will achieve a new stage in building this Arab monument—the ACC—and that this step is characterized by its practical and realistic nature. He added: We are at the beginning of a road and we, God willing, will agree on these points.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said the ACC Ministerial Council meeting gains special importance because it will draw up the bases that will organize the bodies of the ACC and that, during the meeting, the names of one or several people will be presented to the Supreme Council to select a secretary general of the ACC, establish the General Secretariat, draw up the bylaws, and study some matters that will be part of our work.

In a statement to a Baghdad radio correspondent today, he said that the meetings of the Ministerial Council, the Supreme Council, and the specialized committees are important because they will concentrate on integration, coordination, and cooperation in the interest of citizens of the ACC member states.

Yemen Arab Republic Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani has expressed his happiness over attending the first meeting of the ACC Ministerial Council. In a statement to a Baghdad radio correspondent today, he said: I am pleased to be with my brothers in this meeting, during which we will discuss an agenda of many topics, foremost of which are the bylaws and the ACC's procedures and makeup.

He added: There are other topics intended to promote cooperation among the four countries. He pointed out that these topics will be presented to the Supreme Council, which includes the ACC member states, during its forthcoming meeting in Cairo.

Council Ends First Meeting

JN1004170489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council began its meeting at the Conferences Palace here this afternoon. This is the first meeting following the summit held in Baghdad on 16 February. [passage omitted]

The work of the 2-hour first session of the ACC Ministerial Council ended at 1830 today. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, told INA that during this session, the Council implemented the contents of a clause pertaining to the procedures and organization of the Council's bodies.

He also said the rest of the topics listed on the meeting's agenda will be discussed during subsequent sessions of the Council. It has been learned that the Ministerial Council's agenda contains several topics, including the two draft agreements on the headquarters, the ACC's immunities and privileges, the general rules of the ACC's basic law and cadres, the organizational structure of the General Secretariat, and the nomination of the secretary general.

Ministers Conclude 2d Session

JN1104083689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0543 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The prime ministers of the four ACC member states will hold a third session here this morning within the series of meetings which began at the Palace of Conferences in Baghdad yesterday to work out the ACC executive formula.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, told reporters following the conclusion of the second session of the ACC Ministerial Council at dawn today that the arrangements concerning the principles and bases of the ACC action have been completed during the two working sessions yesterday. He said the headquarters agreement has also been completed.

He said the four chief delegates are determined to complete all points listed on the agenda during the Council's current session.

The conference of the ACC Ministerial Council which began here yesterday is the first of its kind after the historic agreement reached by the leaders of the four ACC member states on 16 February 1989.

The Ministerial Council meeting is preparing for a quadripartite summit in Egypt after 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking the end of Ramadan] in May.

In his statement to reporters, Taha Yasin Ramadan announced that the Ministerial Council decided to set up a committee comprising the justice ministers of the four Arab states to study a judicial agreement and unify opinions about this issue in order to raise it before the Ministerial Council during its meeting on Tuesday.

The Ministerial Council held its first session yesterday during which it concluded the item concerning the structures and organization of the ACC committees.

The Ministerial Council agenda includes the headquarters draft agreement, ACC privileges and immunities, the general system of the basic law, the proposed cadre, the organizational structure of the General Secretariat, and nomination of a secretary general.

In a press statement following the second session, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i described the meetings as "brotherly, cordial, and reflecting serious determination to complete the points listed on the agenda and to establish sound bases for ACC action, aspirations, and future vision."

In a similar statement, Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said: "The meeting was successful. The positive spirit which prevailed during the two sessions reflects the good work that has been achieved during these sessions."

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], affirmed that the results that have been reached during the two sessions were fruitful. He praised the positive spirit which prevailed during the meetings.

He expressed the hope that the Council would achieve the results aspired by the Arab nation and that it would achieve the objectives of the ACC.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i conveyed to President Saddam Husayn written messages from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan.

President Saddam Husayn also received an oral message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih conveyed by YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

During a meeting with the heads of the participating delegations to the Ministerial Council meetings, President Saddam Husayn wished them success and progress. He said the Council reflects an honest will.

Council Begins 3d Session

JN1104094589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The third session of the ACC Ministerial Council began here this morning to discuss topics on the agenda. The Council, which includes the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic, will discuss in its third session a draft agreement on the ACC privileges and immunities.

The Council held two meetings yesterday during which it drafted the bases for ACC action and procedures, the agreement on the headquarters and its tasks, and methods of concluding agreements and contracts among ACC states.

Justice Ministers Hold Talks

JN1104095089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0838 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The ministers of justice in Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen began meetings here today within the framework of a judicial committee set up Monday by the ACC Ministerial Council. The judicial committee will discuss issues of standardizing laws and means to apply them in the four Arab countries. The committee is scheduled to present its proposals and recommendations in this regard to the Ministerial Council later today.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officially Rejects Shamir Elections Plan

JN1004193489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The PLO today officially announced its rejection of the Zionist plan that terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, the prime minister of the Zionist enemy, submitted to settle the Palestinian cause. In a statement disseminated by WAFA, an official PLO source stressed that this plan is a repeat of the autonomy plan contained in the Camp David accords that the Palestinian people had rejected.

The source added that the idea of elections as contained in the plan is rejected under the canopy of Zionist occupation. The source said that this idea is just a maneuver seeking to torpedo the efforts for the attainment of a just peace that many international parties are exerting.

The source brought back to mind the Palestinian peace initiative that is based on international legitimacy, which views a just solution as consisting of the Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories; the placing of Palestinian territories under international supervision for a temporary period during which the Palestinian people will exercise their right to self-determination, including holding free elections; and the convening of the international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent members.

The source called on the international community to exercise caution toward the Zionist maneuvers, which constitute an escalation of the terrorism against the popular revolution in the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Uprising' Leadership on Offer

JN1104081089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 11 Apr (WAKH)—Call No 38 issued by the unified leadership of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] was distributed in Jerusalem and other areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last night.

The call affirms the rejection of elections in the occupied territories before withdrawal of the Israeli forces. The call also rejects the ideas of the Israeli prime minister and defense minister on this.

The call reasserts that acts and activities of resistance to the occupation will continue until liberation, victory, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The call reaffirms full commitment to and support for the stands and decisions of the Palestinian president and PLO chief, Yasir 'Arafat.

Call No 38 lists militant activities for the holy month of Ramadan.

Al-Surani Discusses Offer

NC0904142189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with a Palestinian delegation comprising Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo; and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

After the meeting, Al-Surani said that Dr 'Abd al-Majid briefed the Palestinian delegation on President Husni Mubarak's discussions with U.S. President George Bush and the U.S. Administration, pointing out that President Mubarak's visit to Washington was successful by all criteria.

Al-Surani said that the PLO supports the holding of elections in the occupied territories but only after the Israelis have withdrawn and the Palestinian territories have been put under international supervision. Al-Surani pointed out that elections are not an end in themselves but a means to an end. He said that if the end is the election of representatives of the Palestinian people to achieve a political solution, our answer is yes, but if it is to secure cheap labor, as Yitzhaq Shamir wants, then we neither accept nor want it.

Fatah Official Attacks Proposal

NC0804142189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qudrah, Fatah representative and the PLO's charge d'affaires in Cairo, has described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements during his visit to Washington as a maneuver to avoid dealing politically with the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian cause.

In a statement today, Al-Qudrah said the Palestinian people and their legitimate leaders represented by the PLO reject the initiative on elections, by which Shamir aims to mislead world public opinion under the guise of democracy. He stressed that there can be no democracy under the occupation and that the Palestinian people will exercise their full right to self-determination after the elimination of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land.

The Palestinian official remarked that all the maneuvers of Yitzhaq Shamir and his government are rejected by the Palestinian people. He stated that any attempt to circumvent the PLO in any way is also rejected by the Palestinian masses, who are determined to liberate the land and establish an independent state on their national soil.

Envoy to France on Plan

LD0704162589 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Interview with Ibrahim Sousse, PLO representative in Paris, by unnamed "Magazine" program interviewer; time and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] Good morning, Ibrahim Sousse.

[Sousse] Good morning.

[Interviewer] You are the PLO representative in France. Up until now, the Palestinians have remained silent following the initiative of Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is visiting Washington. He has proposed elections in the occupied territories, elections that would allow the opening of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Could this proposal satisfy the PLO?

[Sousse] You yourself have mentioned two words that seem contradictory to me. You said elections and occupation. Can there be free elections under occupation? This is the first question that has to be raised.

[Interviewer] Shamir spoke of free and democratic elections.

[Sousse] How can they be free and democratic when forces of occupation every day kill Palestinians, young Palestinians? As you know, we have had more than 450 dead in addition to thousands of mutilated and thousands of prisoners. So how do you expect them to be free and democratic elections? This plan is a trick. There can't be free elections as long as the Israeli occupation forces are present in the West Bank and Gaza territories.

Secondly, we allowed the Israelis to hold elections in 1976. They did the same thing, the same trick. There were mayors who were all PLO nationalists and who were elected. What happened to these mayors? They were all either assassinated or expelled or mutilated. Not a single one remains in office. So what is all this about? He speaks about free elections in order to mislead international public opinion, to hide the reality about the Israeli repression against the Palestinians.

[Interviewer] Could the PLO refuse this proposal without cutting bridges with Washington—because there are negotiations in Tunis between the Palestinians and the United States?

[Sousse] We told the Americans that elections are out of the question as long as Israeli occupation forces are present. If they want to hold elections, we are not against the principle of elections. But these elections should be free and democratic, that is, the country should be free. In order that the citizen be able express himself freely and democratically, the country should be free.

So we said: why can't the country be put under international mandate, under a UN mandate? At that moment yes, why not? Then, if the Palestinians have to express themselves, the whole of the Palestinian people should express themselves. These elections should not be held only in the West Bank and Gaza. There are between 5 and 5.5 million Palestinians. We are in favor of free and democratic elections involving the whole of the Palestinian population.

[Interviewer] So, in fact, Israel should not organize these elections.

[Sousse] Imagine that we organize elections in Israel. Is it possible for the Palestinians to organize elections in Israel?

[Interviewer] George Bush supports these proposals of Yitzhaq Shamir, but he adds that the occupied territories should be evacuated. That is, he goes further than the Israeli Prime Minister. Do you think that this is a return to the spirit of Camp David or is it going further?

[Sousse] It goes further, because when President Bush says if free and democratic elections are held occupation should cease, this falls into the way we see things. And this is, in fact, against the position of Mr Shamir. In fact, he doesn't support Mr Shamir. He says clearly what we say. We are in favor of free and democratic elections on the day when the Israeli occupation of these territories ceases.

[Interviewer] If the PLO represents all the Palestinians of the occupied territories, what can it lose by accepting these elections?

[Sousse] We already allowed elections in 1976. I don't want to repeat what I said. Why elections? The PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians want it this way. If Israel wants peace, it has to accept this fact, which has now been accepted by the whole of the international community, and come to the negotiation table.

[Interviewer] Don't you think that the refusal of elections by the PLO would increase repression in the territories?

[Sousse] At this stage I don't think that there remains a degree of represssion that Israel would go beyond. As I told you, in the beginning of this program, every day two or three Palestinians die in the occupied territories. There is a tendency to forget this. I don't think Israelis would go beyond this because the prisons are full, the hospitals are full, and the list of victims is getting longer every day. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Ibrahim Sousse, why has PLO waited several hours to react—because at this moment you are giving the first official PLO reaction to these proposals from Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Sousse] Our position was clear before. This proposal to the Americans is not a surprise to us. We knew that he was going to make it before he made it. [passage omitted]

'Abd Rabbuh on Mediation Between Syria, PLO

JN1004161689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 9 Apr 89 p 1, 18

[Text] Tunis—AL-BAYAN—Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department, has affirmed that Arab moves and negotiations are currently being held to convene an emergency Arab summit.

'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that the PLO is encouraging its convening soon in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, in the case that the ordinary summit does not convene—which is the more likely.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, the PLO Executive Committee member said in a statement to AL-BAYAN that Algeria has for the past few days been exerting great effort, together with a friendly state, which he did not reveal and which is believed to be the Soviet Union, toward holding a Palestinian-Syrian dialogue as soon as possible.

'Abd Rabbuh pointed out that the PLO encourages and welcomes holding such a dialogue. In its opinion, the current stage, which he said is witnessing political activity on a wide scale to resolve the Middle East crisis, requires normalizing relations between the two sides, at the forefront of which is preparing for the international conference and coordinating the stands of the Arab countries that are a party to this conference, foremost of which are Syria and the PLO.

The Palestinian official added that the time is not appropriate for any side to be fanatical about the issues in dispute. He pointed out that the decisive factor lies in the Arab summit's decisions and joint interests that unite the two sides to confront Israeli and U.S. maneuvers.

PLO Displaying 'Optimism'

JN0804160889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Apr 89 pp 1, 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—The PLO is displaying optimism over the possibility of effecting a normalization of relations with Syria during the coming few weeks.

Highly placed Palestinian sources have told AL-ANBA' that Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Boualem Bessaieh will visit Damascus, the Syrian capital, during the coming few days to complete the high-level talks held on this in Algiers a few weeks ago by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The same sources pointed out that Algeria offered Syria a mediation effort between the latter and the PLO with the aim of normalizing Syrian-PLO ties. However, the same sources added that President al-Asad demonstrated no enthusiastic response on this and added that Al-Asad stressed that the PLO must change its declared policy.

The informed Palestinian sources said that the Algerian president indicated to his Syrian counterpart that Palestinian policy is based on the resolutions adopted by the Algiers Palestine National Council session. The Algerian president concluded that this means that Algeria agrees with the PLO on its political orientations and that the Syrians have to hold a dialogue with the Palestinians at the earliest possible opportunity, the sources added.

According to information provided by Palestinian officials, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, who has recently visited the Algerian capital, discussed with Algerian officials the possibility of normalizing ties with Syria and demonstrated the PLO's readiness to hold talks with Syrian officials, but without preconditions.

An informed Palestinian source told AL-ANBA' that the delegation that has recently visited Moscow, the Soviet capital, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, held talks with Soviet officials on the possibility of improving ties with Syria.

The Palestinian source added that the Soviets stressed the need to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations to facilitate the mission of the Arab parties in the deliberations of the international Middle East conference once it is convened. However, the Palestinian delegation emphasized the need to see Syria change its intransigent stands on the PLO, the source said.

The same source indicated that the delegation explained to Soviet officials the PLO's endeavors to bring about a coordination with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt and said that the Syrian stand has remained an obstacle in the face of these endeavors.

The Palestinian source affirmed that Soviet Defense Minister Yazov raised this issue with the Syrian officials during his recent visit to Damascus. Moreover, Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tried during his recent Middle East tour to launch direct talks between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. However, 'Arafat refused to make the visit to Damascus without an official invitation.

The last visit by 'Arafat to the Syrian capital was on 20 April 1988, when the funeral ceremonies for Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, were held. However, Syrian-PLO ties deteriorated in no time because the two parties clung to their own stands.

Khalaf Sees 'Change' in U.S. Mideast Policy

PM0704135989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 89 pp 1,2

[Zaki Musa report: "Abu Iyad to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Bush and Baker Statements Denote Change in U.S. Position"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has stated that the election of Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian state and Faruq Qaddumi as foreign minister was a compromise step between declaration and nondeclaration of a government in exile. It was also a step taken for protocol considerations following the proclamation of the State of Palestine.

Fatah's number two man Salah Khalaf said that the U.S. position expressed by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, particularly after Bush's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, denotes a change in U.S. policy on the Middle East question.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu Iyad [Khalaf] said that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was useful and positive and would in the near future reach a higher and more advanced level, because Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's intransigence and rejection of all ideas suggested by numerous international sides for the settlement of the crisis would compel the Americans to draw a comparison between the Palestinian views and Shamir's intransigent views.

He described Shamir's ideas expressed in Washington, and particularly his call for elections in the occupied territory, as false plans that have nothing to do with peace, and stated that the aim of these plans was to undermine the intifadah [uprising] and divide the Palestinian people. Shamir, he said, is a man who works against peace and against any step in that direction.

Referring to the elections suggested by Shamir, he said: There would not be any degree of freedom to elect the true representatives of the people.

Abu Iyad hailed the Palestinian intifadah and the Palestinian people, who are making unlimited sacrifices. He said the intifadah people were the ones who had opened the way to the recent achievements. He added that the intifadah would not stop until Jerusalem was declared the capital of the Palestinian state and until the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's aspiration to a state of their own.

Salah Khalaf expressed regret at the continuous loss of innocent victims in Lebanon. He added that the efforts of the Arab six-member committee were commendable because they sought to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, which has given everything for the sake of all the Arabs.

He said that Israel was pleased to see Arab fighting Arab but would not interfere in the current Lebanon war in favor of any side, but that could change and it could get involved if it sensed that a calm atmosphere was returning between the warring parties.

Meanwhile Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that an Algerian delegation is currently in Damascus on a mediation mission for a Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation.

Al-Hasan, who is a Fatah Central Committee member, said he hoped that the mission would succeed in turning a new page in relations with sister Syria in the interest of Arab solidarity.

Palestinian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President Chadli Bendjedid discussed Palestinian-Syrian relations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the latter's tour of Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia.

The sources said that the Syrian president objected to the Palestinian leader's policy but pointed out that he would not object to receiving a Palestinian delegation in Damascus to discuss relations between the two sides.

Milhim Views King Husayn's Visit to U.S.

JN0604112489 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Apr 89 pp 16, 20

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has attached great importance to His Majesty King Husayn's scheduled visit to the United States.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Milhim said: His Majsty King Husayn's visit to Washington and his meeting with the new U.S. President George Bush will add a strategic dimension to three other dimensions in the Middle East arena. These are: President Mubarak's visit to the United States, his meeting with President Bush, and the U.S. President's statements following the meeting that the PLO considers a positive development toward the Palestine question provided it is applied in practice.

Second, the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and Arab blocs that reinforce the unity of Arab ranks.

Third, the continued deterioration and disintegration of the Israeli military establishment. The United States, which has depended on this establishment to maintain the balance of power in the region in its favor, will surely be prompted to change its policy in the region. Therefore, the PLO considers Husayn's visit as the peak of the successful Arab strategic action. This is why I am very optimistic over the political solution of the Palestine question.

The PLO Executive Committe member once again described the statements of the U.S. President as positive if they are translated into reality on the level of holding the international peace conference, the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, and UN supervision of the territories.

Muhammad Milhim referred to the dissension and mutiny that occurred yesterday within an armoured division of the Zionist military establishment in 'Awarta and Huwarah, where enemy soldiers deployed to terminate the uprising refused to obey Yitzhaq Shamir's orders and wrote slogans on the walls of their two camps in Hebrew saying "we are not police," "our children need us," and "what have we done, have we terminated the uprising during the past 1 and ½ years?" This is in addition to the clash that took place on Tuesday between the army and the Israeli border guards. All this means the beginning of the end of occupation.

Milhim said that, in light of all these developments, Shamir's visit to the United States will only be an attempt to throw dust in people's eyes. The United States and the world realize the dissension within the Israeli society that is growing day by day.

PNC Members in Jordan Send U.S. Envoy Memo

JN1004201489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Apr 89 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a number of Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in Jordan sent a memorandum last Monday to U.S. Ambassador to Amman Roscoe Suddarth on the siege by the Zionist occupation forces of the city of Nabulus and the village of Al-'Aysawiyah in Jerusalem. In the memorandum, the PNC members asked the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on Israel to lift the siege and stop the acts of oppression and torture against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Informed sources told AL-ITTIHAD that similar memoranda were sent to the ambassadors of the UK, FRG, Sweden, Austria, France, and Italy as well as the ambassadors of socialist countries including the Soviet Union, the GDR, Bulgaria, and the CSSR.

PFLP Head Delivers Land Day Speech in Dubayy

JN0204095589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Mar 89 p 20

[By Mustafa Ghazal in Dubayy]

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], called for protecting the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories through Palestinian unity and clinging to the national constants. He affirmed that the danger that could threaten the intifadah is not oppression or the daily difficulties of life, but its political abortion.

He also called for transforming the PLO into a united national front which includes all the Palestinian organizations on the basis of democratic representation.

This came in the speech rally organized by the national committee for Arab solidarity at the youth club in Dubayy which was attended by Khalid Malak, charge d'affaires of the Palestine embassy in the state, as part of Land Day celebrations.

He affirmed that, on the internal level of the occupied territories, the intifadah must go on and its methods must escalate to confront all attempts to halt it.

He said: The intifadah constitutes a new stage in the national Palestinian struggle that could establish a new state of the Arab liberation struggle.

He talked about the characteristics of this stage that are that the masses on the inside have become the basic factor of action and decision in the Palestinian revolution for the first time since 1984 and that the Palestinian-Zionist conflict today forms the core in the framework of the Arab-Israeli conflict and is not, as it always was before, linked to it.

As for the third characteristic, it is that all the masses today, without exception, are involved in the revolution, and not only the vanguards, fedayeen, or parties. Today, the whole people are rebelling under the slogan of liberty or death.

He discussed the currently proposed peace plans and said: If we were facing 3 million Jews who want to live in peace in Palestine, we would have extended our hands to them, stemming from our Arab forgiveness. However, the reality is totally different. We are confronting a colonialist imperialist phenomenon that Reagan used to consider a strategic treasure for the United States in the region. Therefore, peace with it means surrender.

He affirmed that we are a people that do not desire evil or war and that we want real peace. We are destined to confront this phenomenon with clarity and courage.

Habash said we should not fool ourselves and we should recognize that the basic condition for realizing the Palestinian state is to continue fighting on the side of diplomatic action until we force Israel to give in to our rights.

Tarim 'Umran delivered the speech of the United Arab Emirates' National Committee in the rally. Ahmad Sayf Balhasa also delivered the word of the youth club and Dr Mawzah Ghabbash delivered the speech of the general benefit organization in the country.

Gaza Strip on General Strike 11 Apr

JN1004181689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement has announced tomorrow, Tuesday, as a day of general strike in the Gaza Strip to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the deportation of the first group of strugglers, including Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awdah.

Egypt

No Agreement Reached With U.S. on Military Debt

JN1004210289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Egyptian-U.S. talks on the military debt crisis have failed to reach any specific agreement. Egypt has rejected a U.S. proposal to sell the debts to commercial banks. The Egyptian Government has voiced its fears that these banks may declare the country's bankruptcy if it delayed repayment.

The United States also refused to dispense with part of the military debts, estimated to be $4.5 billion. Egypt proposed to discuss the possibility of reducing the high interest rates during the coming months. A U.S. delegation is expected to arrive in Cairo late this month to resume talks on ways to resolve the problem of military debts.

AL-WAFD also learned that the U.S. Administration has informed the Egyptian officials of its determination to fix the amount of U.S. economic aid to Egypt during the next year. Congress will be informed of this decision after it is studied with the officials in charge of reducing the U.S. budget deficit and with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. AL-WAFD also learned that the U.S. Government intends to release part of the frozen cash aid amounting to $230 million during the coming weeks.

Air Force To Receive U.S. F-16, EC2 Planes

JN1004211889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Apr 89 p 1

[By AL-AHRAM correspondent]

[Text] Washington—The talks that General 'Ala' al-Din Barakat, commander of the Egyptian Air Force, held in Washington have resulted in an agreement to supply Egypt with a new batch of F-16 planes, which Egypt contracted to receive until 1992, in addition to the EC2 early-warning planes.

Gen Barakat concluded his talks in Washington yesterday and left for Paris and Cairo.

Government, IMF To Resume Negotiations

JN1004200689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the government and the IMF have agreed to resume negotiations, which were halted last October because of President Mubarak's rejection of the IMF's proposed reform. The decision to resume the negotiations was made as a result of President Mubarak's visit to Washington and the talks his economic delegation held with the IMF officials.

Informed sources affirmed to AL-WAFD that the IMF officials have agreed to resume the negotiations and to send a delegation to Egypt at the end of this month.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the Egyptian economic delegation presented new proposals to implement the economic reform plan as of next July, with the start of the budget of the new fiscal year, 1989-1990.

The sources added that the IMF officials adhered to their demand to unify the exchange rate, begin to activate the exchange rate of the dollar in the Central Bank, reconsider the interest rates in the banks, and reduce the volume of support in the state budget.

U.S. To Help Finance Purchase of Wheat

NC1004094989 Cairo MENA in English 2253 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 9 (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development said the U.S. Administration agreed to extend the necessary facilities to finance Egypt's purchase of its needs of American wheat.

This came in a statement upon arrival here tonight from Washington accompanied by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation.

Executive measures, allowing Egypt to re-utilize the loans, which it signed but did not utilize due to the difficulty of terms laid down by the IMF, will begin as of next week, he said.

The loans comprise an old 150 million dollar loan to implement power stations and a 450 million dollar loan for the construction, industry and agriculture sectors, in addition to a third 200 million dollar loan for the tourist section, and a fourth 150 million dollar loan for renovations and expansions in the industrial sector, Dr. 'Ubayd said.

This is in addition to future loans to support the Egyptian balance of payments in agreement with the IMF, he added.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd stressed that the re-activation of these loans was the result of President Husni Mubarak's recent successful visit to Washington. Which prompted U.S. President George Bush to declare the U.S. Administration's assistance of the Egyptian economic reform programme.

The U.S. declaration is considered a message addressed to international financing organizations, he added. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation, said that the Egyptian delegation discussed the bases of economic reform in Egypt and presented to the IMF the Egyptian economic programme.

Mubarak To Meet With King Husayn 'This Weekend'
NC1004150989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak is expected to visit Jordan by this weekend to meet with King Husayn.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian-Jordanian summit meeting forms part of the continuous consultations between the two Arab leaders with a view to coordinating their stands and exchanging opinions on the latest developments in the Arab arena. They will pay particular attention to the Palestinian issue and ways of promoting peace efforts in the Middle East, before King Husayn's visit to the United States later this month.

MENA has also learned that President Mubarak will brief King Husayn on the outcome of his visit to the United States last week and on his talks with U.S. President George Bush and his senior aides.

Mubarak Expected To Reshuffle Cabinet
JN0904182689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Apr 89 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] Informed political sources expect President Husni Mubarak to discuss the issuance of a number of important political decisions within the next few days. The decisions, which the president will discuss with senior advisers, include filling the post of vice president, changes in the National Democratic Party, and a cabinet reshuffle. The sources expect the appointment of two vice presidents, one of whom is a current parliamentary council speaker. The informed political sources asserted that a major cabinet reshuffle will take place following the approval of the next general state budget. Al-WAFD has learned that a presidential decree on the fate of the Consultative Council will be issued soon.

In another development, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will Monday hold a meeting with the Egyptian ministerial delegation, currently holding negotiations with IMF officials and expected to return to Cairo on Sunday evening. The meeting is aimed at discussing the outcome of talks with the IMF to prepare the next state budget accordingly.

Governorate Moves To Control Bread Distribution
JN0704105498 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Apr 89 p 7

[By Buthaynah Zakariya in Bani Suwayf]

[Excerpt] The Bani Suwayf Governorate has started implementing the cabinet's decisions that was taken during its last meeting to prevent bread shortages, ensure that bread reaches the consumers, and tighten control on smuggling operations to use it for inhuman purposes. It was decided that bread distribution should be based on cards, to ensure that it reaches those entitled to it and prevent its leakage outside the regions. It was also decided to set up distribution centers and consumer cooperative societies in remote areas and to cancel the leave of the supply inspector and workers in the bread field.

This came in a meeting of the higher committee for supplies under the chairmanship of Bani Suwayf Governor Major General Muhammad Hasan Mudin, Supplies General Director Muhammad Sayyid Ibrahim, heads of cities, supplies' inspectors, and members of the investigation organs.

The governor had made surprise visits to some of the city's bakeries, centers, and villages of the governorate after the citizens complained several times of bread shortages, the poor quality of bread, and the leakage of flour onto the black market, and finding larger quantities of flour in some bakeries than they are entitled to. [passage omitted]

Paper Reviews Bread Crisis
PM1004092289 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 10

[Ashraf Khalil report: "Baker Makes 200-Pounds-a-Day Profit on Black Market"]

[Excerpts] AL-SHA'B continues its campaign on the loaf of bread in Al-Minya. During February, 118 infractions were committed, including 41 involving the sale of flour. A baker makes a net profit of some 200 pounds a day on the black market!! One of the main reasons for the crisis is that the loaf of bread has become an alternative to livestock and poultry feed, both on the farm and at home. [passage omitted]

In one of the the governorate's towns, something that drew my attention was the fact that most of the people buying bread were villagers, although the number of bakeries in the villages is increasing by the day. I saw a villager lining up more than once in order to collect as much bread as possible. I asked him: Why are you buying so much? He said: Because there is no bread in our village. There are two bakeries, but they operate for even less than 2 hours. The man added: I have a restaurant, and if I do not have bread I will sell nothing. And frankly I sell 2 loaves for 5 piasters. It is all to do with trade and profit.

When I asked why women in the countryside do not make their own bread, Kamal 'Abdallah, a trader, said: Because an ardeb of wheat costs 80 pounds and an ardeb of corn 70 pounds, which means that bread-making in the countryside is a costly burden. Kamal 'Abdallah added: The soaring prices of animal feed force the farmer to use bread as an alternative. So animals are sharing people's bread.

The baker buys a sack of flour from the government for 11 pounds and sells it for 30 pounds, making a profit of 19 pounds without any problems!!

Yasir Radi, a university student, says: The cause of the bread crisis is that bakers sell the flour. All night we see sacks of flour leaving the bakeries. And of course there is no effective control that would prevent such people from tampering with the food of our helpless people. [passage omitted]

We had to search for a supply inspector who would open up to us. He said: We set control rules for the bakeries and determine operation times for them. Supply inspectors remain in the bakeries all the time, but controls have been ineffective, because the government persists in burying its head in the sand. It is true: Bakers are selling flour, because unlawful profit is quick and plenty, and there is still no deterrent. [passage omitted]

Libya

Sudanese Defense Minister Confers With Jabir

LD0904010789 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir conferred yesterday evening with Major General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, Sudanese defense minister, who is currently visiting the great Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by delegations from the great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan.

Leaves Tripoli 10 Apr

LD1004183389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 10 Apr (JANA)—General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, defense minister in fraternal Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli today following [words indistinct] to the great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a JANA representative prior to his departure, General Mubarak emphasized that his visit to the great Jamahiriyah was successful in every respect and that it is a visit from a brother to a brother. He said: I feel enormous joy while I am here on the soil of my country and not a stranger. The talks were successful in creating better cooperation in every field.

JANA: Economic Protocol Signed With SFRY

LD0704172589 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Belgrade, Al-Tayr [April] 7, JAHAMIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A protocol was concluded this morning of the 10th sesion of the Libyan Arab-Yugoslavian joint committee for the economic, technical and information cooperation.

It was concluded by the secretary of the general People's Committee for Treasury and Mr Jawad Yunivitchi, member of the Executive Federal Council in Yugoslavia. It is on cooperation in the economic, trade, energy and oil spheres, apart from having cooperation in the scientific, technical, information and health fields and the companies of marine installations. It also includes and agreement on social security between the two countries.

Joint Commission Minutes Signed With Vietnam

LD0904214889 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 9, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the third session of the Libyan Arab Vietnamese Joint Commission were signed in Tripoli this afternoon.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and on the Vietnamese side by the minister of construction and development.

The minutes include cooperation in various fields especially in the commercial field as agreement was reached to endeavour for the execution of the commercial agreement signed between the two countries and the exchange of goods.

The minutes provide for the encouragement of contacts between specialized organizations and companies between the two countries and exchange of information.

As far as manpower is concerned, agreement was reached on the use of Vietnamese technicians.

In the field of education and scientific research, agreement was reached on the need for coordination between the two countries' educational institutions and the exchange of youths delegations and students delegations.

In the field of joint investment, agreement was reached on the possibility of setting up investment projects and joint companies for maritime transport.

In the field of agriculture, agreement was reached on the revival of cooperation in the sphere of agriculture, exchange of scientific visits between the specialised agronomic research centres as well as the exchange of studies in the field.

In the field of health agreement was reached on the use of the Vietnamese medical elements of high expertise and long experience.

In the field of information agreement was reached on the development of cooperation bonds in all fields of information and culture between the two countries.

In the field of maritime resources, it was agreed that accords agreed on the revival of the minutes of joint cooperation signed by the two countries by the secretary of the People's Committee for Maritime Resources and the minister of maritime resources in Vietnam.

Sudan

Peace Talks End With Little Progress Reported

NC1004180089 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 10 (AFP)—A Sudanese Government delegation and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels ended three days of peace talks here Monday, with little apparent progress to show.

The government delegation, which described itself as a Peace Operators Group, was sent by an eight-man ministerial peace committee recently set up in Khartoum to promote the process of peace.

It was composed of political activist and university lecturer Taysir Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, retired Army General Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf and Bagadi Ahmad, none of whom is actually in the Sudanese Government.

The team delivered documents and a text from the Sudanese Council of Ministers relating to the official acceptance of the peace accord signed in Addis Ababa on November 16 between the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) "with clarifications", according to a joint communique issued at the end of the talks.

The communique said the two sides agreed to keep channels of communication open with a view to arranging a meeting "at the earliest opportunity" between the SPLA and the ministerial peace committee in Khartoum.

But the Khartoum documents were addressed personally to SPLA commander-in-chief Colonel John Garang, leaving the rebels with no choice but to promise to on-pass the messages.

As a consequence, nothing of substance seemed to have been discussed and observers said the exchanges were more of the nature of friendly chats among friends than on real issues.

Asked whether he was satisfied with moves from Khartoum on the peace process so far, the reply of the SPLA's Major Deng Alors was a flat "no".

He seemed particularly put out by the absence of "clarifications" said to have accompanied the official acceptance of the so-called November peace initiative. But Mr. Taysir said he was satisfied that many "positive" developments were taking place in Khartoum to advance the cause of peace.

AFP: Constituent Assembly Speaker Resigns

NC1004212589 Paris AFP in English 2114 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, April 10 (AFP)—A top Islamic fundamentalist official resigned as speaker of Sudan's Constituent Assembly on Monday in protest over a decision to shelve debate on controversial Islamic law provisions until after peace returns to the south of the country.

Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad resigned from his post, and other members of his opposition National Islamic Front (NIF) party walked out, amid cries from supporters demanding full application of Islamic shari'ah law throughout the country.

Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who last month formed a new administration excluding the NIF from its former status as a coalition partner, is trying to end a long-running war in the mainly Christian south, where rebels strongly oppose the imposition of Islamic law to their region.

The parliamentary decision to postpone debate on the issue was a setback for the NIF, which has steadfastly demanded the imposition of Islamic law, and opposed efforts to end the southern war.

On a motion by majority president Jabrallah Khamsin the parliament voted 154 to 53 10 abstentions to suspend debate on Islamic law until a constitutional convention can be held to debate national problems.

Such a convention is to be held as soon as a ceasefire goes into effect and the state of emergency is lifted, according to the Addis Ababa agreement signed last November by the Movement for the Liberation of the People of Sudan and the Democratic Unionist Party. The agreement was approved by Mr. al-Mahdi's new government in late March.

Prime Minister Appoints Darfur Deputy Governor

EA0804214589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, has issued a decree appointing Dr Adam Muhammad Ahmad deputy governor of Darfur Region. He was sworn in today before Mr Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalifah, minister of presidential affairs. The ceremony was also attended by Mr Husayn Siddiq, general secretary of the Council of Ministers.

'Government Source': Over 90 AIDS Deaths

NC1004193589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] A government source in Khartoum has disclosed that over 90 people have died of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS] in Sudan over the past 2 years. The source said that 225 cases of AIDS appeared in Sudan over the same period.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Views Arab Groupings, Intifadah

JN0804081889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 8 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, has affirmed that Bahrain as well as the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] are advocates of peace and security.

He added that the GCC states' relations with all countries stem from the desire to achieve peace, stability, development, and cooperation in all positive fields.

In a comprehensive statement published today in the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM in agreement with the Omani newspaper AL-WATAN, his highness said that the Iraq-Iran war was difficult for everybody. He added that we hope that we all benefited from its lessons and that we all establish fraternal relations that help everyone to achieve progress, construction, and development within a framework of security, peace, and stability.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah reiterated his welcome of the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. He added that these groupings are a strong support for the Arab nation and an embodiment of the Arab people's aspiration for unity.

With regard to the effect of these groupings on the work through the Arab League, his highness said: I believe they will strengthen the trends of unified Arab action through the Arab League.

He affirmed that these groupings, in light of their charters, are not separatist organizations or blocs directed against a specific side. He added that the launching of these groupings came within the framework of the provisions of Article 9 of the Arab League Charter that gives the member states, which seek stronger cooperation and ties, the right to conclude agreements that will achieve this goal.

His highness the prime minister affirmed that no permanent and just peace can be achieved in the Middle East without reaching a just solution to the Palestine question. He added: In my opinion, we are moving in this direction although the steps are slow.

He noted that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has opened the world's eyes to the nature of the Palestine question despite the attempts made by the occupation. He said that the stonethrowing children were able to gain the strong support of world public opinion, which cannot be confronted by media deception. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Egypt's Mubarak Briefs Amir on Washington Visit

JN0904082489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 8 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, this evening received a telephone call from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt who congratulated the amir on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

His highness the amir of Qatar also congratulated the Egyptian president on the occasion, asking Almighty God to grant the Arab and Islamic nation many happy returns on the blessed occasion and, God willing, well-being, loftiness, and prosperity in order to realize the nation's aspirations and sublime pan-Arab objectives.

QNA said the amir of Qatar and President Mubarak exchanged opinions and consultations on the latest developments of the situation, particularly in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

The Egyptian president briefed the Qatari amir on the results of his recent visit to the United States and the outcome of his talks with the U.S. President and senior officials in Washington on the Middle East situation and the efforts being exerted to reach a durable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region and settle the Palestine question in a manner securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

His highness the amir voiced his appreciation of and satisfaction with the efforts being made by the Arab Republic of Egypt under President Mubarak on various levels in this regard.

His highness the amir also affirmed the importance of unifying the Arab stand and adopting an effective common Arab stance to help realize the national objectives of the Arab and Islamic nation and vindicate its just causes.

Saudi Arabia

USSR's Gerasimov on Resumption of Ties

LD1104101889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA)—The spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Gennadiy Gerasimov, has expressed his country's readiness to exchange ambassadors with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at any time.

In an interview published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper "AL-WATAN," he pointed out that the move to exchange ambassadors between the two countries is awaiting a clear signal from Saudi Arabia at a time when relations between the two countries are witnessing improvement, albeit slow. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Lebanese crisis and the deterioration in security currently being witnessed by Lebanon, Gerasimov said there is a state of total anarchy which would divide any region.

The Soviet adviser expressed pessimism regarding the situation in Lebanon and said he has nothing but good wishes for this beautiful country which is living through a difficult predicament.

In conclusion, Gerasimov emphasized that the aircraft deal with the Libyan Jamahiriyah is not new. It is an old deal concluded 7 years ago.

However, delivery of the aircraft was delayed by the Soviet side due to the terms of delivery and completion.

Foreign Minister Comments on Arab Ties, Israel

JN0904144489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Apr 89 pp 10-11, 55

[Interview with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] A great deal has been said about the visit which King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, paid to Egypt, such as that it provided actual proof of Egypt's return to the heart of Arab events and served as a Saudi endorsement of Egypt's leading role in the Arab world. What is your assessment of this visit?

[Al-Faysal] What I say and feel has been said and felt by all members of the Saudi delegation who had the honor of accompanying the custodian of the two holy mosques on this visit, which I consider historic by all standards.

In fact, I believe I am speaking for every Saudi when I praise the warm welcome accorded to the custodian of the two holy mosques and the great public rejoicing upon the meeting of the two Arab leaders. The happiness of the Egyptian citizen was also felt by the Saudi citizen. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Saudi Arabia has succeeded in restoring diplomatic relations between Morocco and Syria. The Saudi monarch's visit to Cairo has now given the impression that a resumption of relations between Egypt and Syria is now very close and only a question of time. What is the truth and what about the relations between Iraq and Syria?

[Al-Faysal] I firmly believe—and this is based on my strong optimism—that inter-Arab relations will return to normalcy. There are many indications heralding the return of relations between Egypt and Syria. The statements made by the officials of both countries predict good tidings. Arab solidarity in all of its meanings is the the main pillar of the policy pursued by the custodian of the two holy mosques. And one of the top priorities of Arab solidarity is the normalization of inter-Arab relations.

So, regarding Egypt-Syrian and Iraqi-Syrian relations, I say their restoration is the hope of every Arab. Naturally, this is a responsibility that every Arab official aspires to help fulfill. As I said, one of the main pillars of the policy pursued by the custodian of the two holy mosques is Arab solidarity.

[Al-Sa'id] Does Israel still pose the greatest threat to the Arab nation due to its growing arsenal of nuclear and chemical weapons, strategic cooperation with the United States, participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative, and so forth?

[Al-Faysal] Your question contains the answer itself. Israel threatens security and stability not only in the Arab world but also in the international arena. As you said, its arsenal is growing. Moreover, we do not know the reasons behind this huge armament, especially since the parties to the conflict—namely, the Arab states and the Palestinians—have announced their desire for peace, which is based on justice and international legitimacy. [passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] Alongside Egypt, Syria, and Iraq, Saudi Arabia is said to possess long-range missiles. This, it was said, will tip the strategic balance in the region in favor of the Arabs.

Therefore, Israel, in cooperation with the United States, is now concentrating on manufacturing missles against the ones you allegedly possess.

[Al-Faysal] This, of course, is out of place. The Arab countries have made clear their inclination toward peace, as I said earlier.

If Israel wants stability and peace, it has only to accept international legitimacy and the principles of right and justice, especially given that the young Palestinian state is now unequivocally oriented toward peace and that the Arab will is also moving in the same dirction after all the Arab countries have accepted the Fes resolutions, which advocate international legitimacy and a peaceful solution based on this legitimacy.

It is unjustifiable to look at any weapon possessed by the Arab countries and disregard the basic factor that determines the inclination of all these countries, which revolves around peace.

Here, I can talk about Saudi Arabia, which has made it clear, through its leader and cabinet, that it is not trying to build a military arsenal but only a force for self-defense, which is a legitimate and unbargainable right. While Saudi Arabia seeks to defend itself, it is committed to the Arab inclination toward peace.

[Al-Sa'id] While President Mubarak was visiting the United States, Israeli sources intentionally leaked allegations to the U.S. press that Iraq, with help from Egypt and Argentina, is embarked on a secret program to produce nuclear warheads for a modern, long-range missile called "Condor 2."

Earlier, during the president's visit to Europe in March, there were accusations that Egypt is producing chemical weapons. Egyptian officials here have denied these allegations. What do you think of this?

[Al-Faysal] It seemed the Israeli circles loved the game so much they repeated it time and again. The aim is to distort the image of the Arabs and dwarf and blackout their peaceful trends through such nonsense. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Saudi Arabia has contributed significantly to solving the Afghan problem. Its efforts constituted one of the bases that expedited the Soviet withdrawal from the Afghan territories. Do you agree with me?

[Al-Faysal] I can only say that the Afghans themselves were the party that made great efforts and achieved dazzling results. No one can downgrade the struggle and jihad of the Afghan people to repulse the aggression and liberate their homeland. The Afghan fighter and struggler was the one who achieved this great victory.

We highly appreciate the withdrawal of Sovi iet troops from Afghanistan and we hope this withdraw val will be the beginning of improved relations between t the Soviet Union and the future Islamic Afghan state. T his is the ambition of Saudi Arabia together with its fraternal islamic countries.

We also hope this step will be followed by a stage e in which fighting ends and peace prevails so that reconstru uction can begin in Afghanistan. This, of course, is our aim n.

[Al-Sa'id] It has been said there is an inclinatio on toward improving your relations with the Soviets a fter their withdrawal from Afghanistan and that it is now possible to resume diplomatic relations between Saud di Arabia and the Soviet Union.

[Al-Faysal] As I said, we greatly appreciate th he Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan and con nsider the step important and effective for improved So viet relations with the entire Islamic world.

We hope this will be completed by the Soviet Union's helping a peaceful transfer of authority in Afgh hanistan.

RCC Decree Grants Amnesty to Political Exiles

JN1004182289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No 238 dated 4 Ramadan, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 10 April 1989.

Decree No 238: Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article No 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decided the following during its session held on 4 Ramadan, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 10 April 1989:

1. Articles No 1 and 2 of RCC Decree No 130 dated 22 Rajab, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 28 April 1989, shall be amended, and a decision has been made as follows:

First, a general amnesty will be granted to the Iraqis who fled Iraq and legal measures against them for their political crimes will be stopped if they return to the homeland.

Traitor Jalal Talabani and the agents of the Iranian regime will be excepted.

Second, anyone who benefits from the provisions of this decree can postpone his return to the homeland until he finds suitable circumstances. However, he should apply in writing to any of our embassies abroad stating his desire to benefit from the amnesty and the circumstances that surrounded his escape from Iraq.

After returning, he can travel outside the homeland if he is engaged in work, study, or similar activities and wants to continue it.

2. This decree shall come into force as of the date of its issuance. It will be considered effective as long as RCC Decree No 130 dated 22 Rajab, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 28 February 1989, is in force.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

YAR Prime Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN1004112289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani arrived in Baghdad at noon today leading a delegation to attend the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council.

The YAR prime minister was accorded an official reception led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of the ACC Ministerial Council. Also present were RCC members Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hasan 'Ali. [passage omitted]

The YAR delegation comprises Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and development minister; Salih 'Abbas, secretary general of the Council of Ministers; and a press and media delegation. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Receives Egypt's Sidqi on Arrival

JN1004124889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Baghdad this afternoon leading a delegation to attend the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council Ministerial Council.

Sidqi was accorded an official reception led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the Council's meetings. Also present were RCC members Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hasan 'Ali. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian prime minister is accompanied by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Yusri Mustafa, economy and foreign trade minister; and Ahmad Radwan, secretary general of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Receives ACC Prime Ministers

JN1004193589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and Yemen Arab Republic Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, who are participating in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] meetings in Baghdad, and their accompanying delegations.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his wishes that the meetings will be successful, stressing that historic actions, especially those born in a natural way and which express the nation's aspirations, will, and needs, will be backed by the whole nation.

His excellency added that any action expressing a true will will be blessed by Almighty God, and as the will is sincere, God willing, your steps in the four countries will continue to advance. He added: Every meeting you hold

will make a major achievement, but you will also continue to seek greater achievements, God willing.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the ACC Ministerial Council meetings, and the accompanying Iraqi delegation.

President Saddam gave a dinner banquet this evening to honor the heads of the ACC ministerial delegations and the members of their accompanying delegations.

66 Ill, Disabled Prisoners Return From Iran

JN1004125589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1223 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—Sixty-six sick and disabled Iraqi prisoners returned to the homeland at noon today. As they disembarked the plane that carried them from Iran to Baghdad, the returnee prisoners kissed the homeland's soil and cheered President Saddam Husayn.

The prisoners were received by the secretary of the permanent committee for war victims and representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad.

Shamir To Set Up Committee for Peace Plan

TA1104064489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is in the United States. While there he announced the setting up of a new ministerial committee to work out the details of his initiative for negotiations in the region. Mr Shamir called on King Husayn to go along with his initiative, as its principles also serve Husayn's interests. The prime minister made these statements in Chicago, upon the conclusion of his visit to the Midwest. He returned to New York last night.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, who is with Shamir's entourage, reports:

The prime minister added a new addressee to the ones whose support he is seeking for his proposals for furthering the political process. After enlisting the U.S. Administration's support, Shamir appealed to King Husayn to join his initiative.

In a summary meeting with Jewish leaders in Chicago, Shamir said that Husayn opposes a Palestinian state, which would pose a danger to him and his kingdom. If Husayn wants a secure Jordan, he had better go along with the proposed initiative, Shamir said. Shamir added that it is not Israel's job to defend Jordan, but as a stable state in the region it figures as a factor in his initiative.

Shamir told his listeners that he intends to set up a ministerial committee to work out the details of his proposals. Shamir estimated that a completed plan, which could serve as the basis for launching negotiations, will be ready within a few weeks.

The prime minister said that 2 weeks before the beginning of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, he met with a Palestinian personality and tried to explain the futility of violence. His Palestinian interlocutor responded that the purpose of the violence is not to convince Israel or the Israelis, but rather the U.S. Administration. Shamir told the Palestinian that he did not believe that the United States would change its position, but was forced to admit shortly afterward that the Palestinian had been right.

The prime minister said that the U.S. decision to hold a dialogue with the PLO prevented the uprising from abating. Shamir explained that the intensification of the disturbances, which climaxed in the Temple Mount events of last Friday, is the reaction of the residents of the territories to the recent diplomatic efforts that brought Egyptian President Mubarak, Shamir, and King Husayn of Jordan to Washington.

This concludes the Midwestern leg of Shamir's trip. Today Shamir will meet UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in New York.

Peres: Shamir's Visit Beginning of 'Process'

TA0704164089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Shamir's talks in Washington mark the beginning of a process. The question is which direction this process will take. Peres pointed out that this does not depend only on Israel, but also on the United States, the Palestinians, and the PLO. He added that the main problem is the other party for negotiations and whether representatives from among the Palestinians will be found.

In a meeting with correspondents in Tel Aviv, Peres stated that for the time being the participation of PLO representatives in the elections will not be permitted.

Peres: Observers at Elections Pose 'No Problem'

TA1104150689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said today that the presence of foreign observers during elections in the territories poses no problem whatsoever. In a conversation with German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz, Peres said that although any permanent solution of the Middle East problem must include a territorial compromise, there is no room for another army between Jordan and Israel.

Arens: Palestinian Interlocutors Can Be Found

TA1004194089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says that Israel is currently going through some hard times. We are a small country facing great dangers. We have only the weapon of solidarity and a national consensus to combat them. Minister Arens was speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He denied rumors that Likud members are engaged in a dialogue with PLO representatives. He said that Israel can find Palestinian interlocutors because he believes the Palestinians today are different from the Palestinians of 1967.

Briefs Basyuni on Shamir Plan

TA1004172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has updated Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni on the specifics of the plan Prime Minister Shamir presented in Washington. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the minister told the ambassador that consultations and coordination between Israel and Egypt are essential for progress in the peace process. He asserted that Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav's visit to Cairo this week can serve as an appropriate opportunity for such contacts between the two countries.

Rabin Sees 6-Month Process Leading to Elections

TA1104111689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz and special correspondent to the United States Binah Barzel]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is proposing that the residents of East Jerusalem be given the right to take part in the political elections in the territories.

Rabin said he believes that the elections could be prepared in 6 months, while Prime Minister Shamir thinks that a period of 9 to 12 months will be needed. "The Americans can do a lot to get the plan accepted," the defense minister said. [passage omitted]

In a special conversation with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Rabin said that he had favored allowing residents of East Jerusalem to participate in the elections as far back as in 1981 and that his was a minority position even then. Rabin stressed that he has not changed his mind since. Rabin disclosed that he proposed the idea of elections in the territories to Shim'on Peres even before the Knesset elections, and this idea was in fact presented at a news conference on the eve of the elections.

According to Rabin's proposal, the residents of East Jerusalem would vote in other areas, such as Nabulus and Bethlehem.

Answering a question on how he managed to convince Prime Minister Shamir to support the idea of elections, Rabin said: "I do not know whether I convinced him or whether it was his own idea. In any event, it is not important who gets the credit for it. The important thing is that progress be made." Rabin said that practical preparations for the elections have not yet begun. "There is no reason for it. A government resolution adopting the plan should be passed first. The Palestinians in the territories should accept our guidelines after the Americans have accepted them. I believe that the Americans, who support the idea, will do everything in their power to convince those that need be convinced to accept elections."

Rabin said that the Palestinians should be presented with an official government proposition and not personal ideas. Until that time, we should continue "the unpleasant activity in the territories. Otherwise the Palestinians might believe that if they maintain violence, Israel will surrender." Rabin said that even if the Palestinians initially reject the idea of holding elections, Israel should persist in its attempts to convince them.

"The talks between military government personnel and Palestinians include political issues as well. While it is not the military government's job to deal with political issues, the Palestinians in the territories are looking to see the light at the end of the tunnel. At this stage, I can see a 6-month process of debating the elections. I am no prophet, and at present I cannot estimate whether these elections will eventually be held. Favorable public opinion for the elections must be created in the territories, because there is no enthusiasm at the moment."

Answering a question on whether Hawatimah's supporters in the territories would be allowed to take part in the elections, Rabin said: "If they have been active, disseminating leaflets and engaging in hostile activities, then they have already been deported or jailed. If they are merely supporters, they could participate."

Rabin said that, if a delegation of residents of the territories for negotiations were to be presented without elections, he would be willing to consider it. Referring to Palestinian representation for negotiations of the final arrangement, Rabin said that such a delegation could include Palestinians who are not residents of the territories. Rabin was not willing to expand on this issue. He mentioned, however, that the idea of adding Palestinian professors who reside in the United States to the delegation had been raised in the past. In reply to a question on whether he is referring to Eduard Said, Rabin said: "Various names were raised." [passage omitted]

Labor Party Leaders Wary of Shamir Proposals

TA0904100389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Apr 89 p 8

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Labour ministers, while resigned to the apparent success enjoyed by Prime Minister Shamir in Washington, expressed "serious doubts" about both the viability and desirability of the premier's proposals.

Nevertheless, at this point both Vice Premier Peres and Defence Minister Rabin intend to wait for the results of American contacts with the PLO before passing final judgement on the proposal.

Labour was especially critical yesterday of the premier's insistence on sidestepping the question of the nature of the final settlement, warning that this could eventually lead to "dangerous and excessive" concessions.

Minister Moshe Shahal told THE JERUSALEM POST that by leaving completely open the nature of the final settlement and entering negotiations for an interim settlement unconditionally, Shamir may inadvertently "lead to a situation in which Israel gives up vital security interests".

Shahal said that Israel should have spelled out its conditions for the final settlement now, including security borders and rejection of an independent Palestinian state. Furthermore, he said, by agreeing that the interim settlement apply to the entire area of the territories, Israel was implicitly accepting that the final settlement—in which sovereignty would be ceded—would apply to the entire area as well.

Peres said that he supported in principle the idea of elections in the territories—an idea which he and Rabin proposed during the Knesset elections—but added that "the real question is whether or not it is the beginning of a process." At this point, he said, "the other side is missing."

Speaking to visiting American Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, Peres called on the Palestinians to "accept the principle of compromise." When the negotiations indeed begin, he said, "no one will be able to fully attain his goals."

Peres also noted that "it is uncertain" whether the PLO—which last week rejected the proposals—would agree to the creation of an alternate leadership via elections in the territories.

Many in Labour are concerned that in order to achieve PLO endorsement of the elections, the U.S. may guarantee—without coordination with Israel—the participation of the organization in the negotiation over the final settlement. Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said he saw this as "a definite possibility."

But even so, Ya'aqobi doubted "that elections can be implemented without accepting the principle of territories for peace in advance."

A senior Labour Party minister told THE JERUSALEM POST that if the PLO does not withdraw its rejection to the Shamir proposal—and the Israeli government does not adopt a new position—the coalition is "very likely" to collapse by the end of 1989.

Both Peres and Rabin are at this point willing to wait for the results of the next step of the process—U.S. discussion of the Shamir proposal with the PLO—before consolidating the party's position.

Highly-placed Labour sources told THE POST that Shamir faced "much more intense pressures in Washington than were evident during the public appearances."

MAPAM [United Workers Party] Secretary-General El'azar Granot, meanwhile, lambasted the Shamir proposal, saying that "for four years Shamir and Rabin rejected the idea of elections, and only now, when there is no partner for it, they turn to elections as a last resort."

Sinyurah: Elections After Dialogue With PLO

TA0904121689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Palestinian activist Hanna Sinyurah says elections in the territories will not lead to a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sinyurah spoke to reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Sinyurah] Elections today are not part of how to start the process. Elections might come later on when there is a dialogue, when there is direct or indirect negotiations between the Government of Israel and the PLO. Today, what is necessary is how to get the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table. And as long as there are plans actually to sidestep the issue of the PLO, this will not work.

[Berger] As you know, the issue of the PLO is not acceptable to the Israelis. So is it not worthwhile to at least get the ball rolling?

[Sinyurah] We certainly feel that the deadlock, the impasse we are in, has to be broken. I am certain that today what was proposed in Washington from the Israeli side, from the prime minister, would not be the process that will open the way. Hopefully, through the good offices of the United States—and here the United States has to improvise probably other attitudes and other proposals, or come out with suggestions in order to break the present impasse. [incomplete sentence as heard] But elections in order to start a process today are not supported by the Palestinian people.

[Berger] Well, what in your view is necessary to get the peace process rolling then, or to start the peace process?

[Sinyurah] The important issue is that the Government of Israel is ready to talk about major options like giving up land for peace. Then all other side-issues can be arranged. But if so far the position of Mr Shamir is not to give up one single inch of land, or not to address directly the national needs of the Palestinian people, then cosmetic changes, trying to bring up issues like autonomy under Camp David which was refused, and to dress it up—these will not be accepted and will continue to be rejected by the Palestinians. [end recording]

Meridor Rejects PLO as Partner for Talks

TA0904181889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Yoni Ben-Menahem in the minister's office in East Jerusalem; date not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Do you think the possibility of holding elections in the territories is realistic, given the firm opposition of the PLO and other figures in the territories?

[Meridor] The fact that the PLO opposes elections comes as no surprise to me. I am not looking for PLO consent. As far as I am concerned, the PLO is not a partner—either directly or through the United States. A situation has been created in which Jordan does not want to play the game and neither does Egypt. And here we are, with plenty of Arab inhabitants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—1.3 million or perhaps more.

We want to reach a dialogue with them and are not prepared to live with guns, hand grenades, or instructions from Tunisia or Iraq as their representatives. If

they want to talk to us, fine. So choose your representation. But if you do not want that, and say that only the PLO will represent you—which in effect means that you are only ready to see an organization that actually wants to annihilate Israel as your representative—then it is very bad for you.

[Ben-Menahem] Is that option realistic? After all, many inhabitants of the territories have also expressed firm opposition to this notion.

[Meridor] This question should be directed to them. We are offering them a very decent and far-reaching proposal, saying: We want to talk to you, we are prepared to talk to you, but do not send us to the PLO because we will not talk to it. This is an organization with whose goals we are very well acquainted. If you want, elect your representatives in a manner on which we will decide. This is what the prime minister offered. He said: Come and talk to us! But if they do not want to do so, I have to ask myself why they are rejecting this offer. I know why, if they really reject the offer. That is because they really want to attain the PLO's goal. If that is the case, I have nothing to discuss with them.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, what scenario should we anticipate in the next few weeks in terms of preparations for the election process in the territories?

[Meridor] I would suggest that we refrain from going into detail. Let us wait for the prime minister to return, and I presume that the issue will undergo proper discussion both in the Cabinet plenum and in the Inner Cabinet. Let us see how things turn out.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, regarding the U.S.-PLO dialogue: In the next round, the United States will suggest the idea of elections to the PLO. Are we not engaged in indirect negotiations with the PLO via the United States?

[Meridor] I very much hope not. I do not believe there is any chance that the PLO will be prepared to embark on a process with which we can live. After all, the PLO ultimately wants to reach a state of affairs that is acceptable to no Israeli, or at least not to 90 percent of the Israeli population. Not only does it want to go back to the 1967 lines, including the repartitioning of this city and the office that I occupy, but it also wants the resettlement of refugees from Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra, Shatila, Al-Biqa', and Amman in Haifa, Yafo, and Ramla. These people have sent 'Arafat. Those who embrace this method will fail.

I think, or hope, that the Americans understand that this way cannot yield any results. Therefore, we must identify the joint interests—which I believe exist—between us and the Arabs residing here, and find an arrangement that will herald a fundamental change in their lives and their ability to run their own affairs without our intervention, and at the same time without harming our security.

[Ben-Menahem] How do you explain the fact that the United States is taking the Israeli election proposal and is delivering it to the PLO?

[Meridor] If the move involves the PLO on the one side and Israel on the other, I assume it will fail. If they want it to succeed, it is necessary to focus on the Arabs living here, in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; not those who give them orders and issue instructions to them, frightening them, shooting, and intimidating them from Tunis and Baghdad.

[Ben-Menahem] In other words, the elections are doomed from the outset?

[Meridor] I do not think so. I think it is necessary to come up with such a proposal and make the Arabs who live here in Bethlehem and Hebron ask themselves whether they are, for once in their history, prepared to take control of things and decide on their own future, and come to talk rather than wait for others on the outside to solve their problems. If they do that, they will find Israel ready to talk to them and to make a rather generous gesture in the direction of self-rule, as offered. I think that will be good for them and for us.

Weizman Denies Report on Debate With 'Arafat

TA1004204289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman vehemently denies that he is to participate in a television debate with Yasir 'Arafat in June in Palma de Mallorka. The French news agency earlier reported that the debate will be held with the participation of 'Ezer Weizman, Yasir 'Arafat, Henry Kissinger, and Bruno Kreisky. According to the report, the participants will each be in their homes and will answer questions presented by reporters located at Kreisky's residence in Palma de Mallorka.

Minister Weizman told our correspondent in the FRG, Yig'al Rom, that he had received such a proposition, but rejected it outright. Weizman added, however, that he still supports the notion of holding negotiations with the PLO in order to solve the problems in our region. According to Mr Weizman the chances of Shamir's attaining a solution for the dispute in the Middle East are slim.

PLO 'Working Around the Clock' To Meet Ministers

TA1004151489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Arnon Yafe in France]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Arye Der'i has turned down a request by PLO leaders for a meeting. This was confirmed yesterday by Tzvi Jacobson, the minister's assistant, who refused to give any details.

It has been learned that the PLO approached SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] through people defined in the party as belonging to the French peace camp. Jacobson received the request for a meeting and informed Minister Der'i, who rejected it.

Sources close to the PLO in Paris, commenting yesterday on the matter, said that the PLO had asked King Hassan II of Morocco to set up a meeting between 'Arafat and SHAS principals. The king was asked to use his connections with high-placed Israelis of Moroccan descent to invite several of the SHAS leaders to a meeting with 'Arafat or one of his deputies. The PLO is now seeking contacts with those Israelis opposing talks with the organization, and with the religious parties. The get-togethers with the Israeli leftists have become routine and no longer further the PLO cause among the Israeli and the U.S. public.

Attempts to hold meetings with senior Labor Party officials have not been successful. The PLO wanted to meet Ministers Gur or Shahal. The sources reported that the PLO's top echelon is investing efforts to persuade Likud leaders to meet them in secret so that the latter may be convinced of the PLO's sincere desire for a peaceful arrangement.

Messengers and middlemen are working around the clock to set up such meetings, so far without results. The sources claim that the PLO moderates are weakening in the face of Israeli rejectionism because all their initial overtures have run into a brick wall. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Rejection of Shamir Proposal Criticized

JN0904164089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1449 GMT 9 Apr 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, Yasir 'Arafat immediately rejected the Israeli proposal to conduct free, democratic elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This proposal was officialy made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the U.S. Administration during his recent visit to Washington with the objective of giving the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip an opportunity to elect officials who are qualified not only to run the affairs of the municipalities and local councils but also to represent them in negotiations with Israel within the framework of the peace efforts to achieve a satisfactory settlement of the Palestine question. Yasir 'Arafat and his aides immediately rejected this election proposal and instructed their tools on the West Bank and Gaza Strip to reject the proposal automatically.

Perhaps it is a contradiction that this 'Arafatist rejection comes after 'Arafatist circles have become accustomed to openly bragging with great confidence that their loyalists will score a sweeping victory in any elections that may be conducted on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. So, why do 'Arafat and his aides reject the concept of these elections? 'Arafat and his aides adhere to two major pretexts. The first is that free, democratic elections cannot be conducted as long as the West Bank and Gaza Strip remain under Israeli occupation. Of course, this pretext is weak and unconvincing, because as everyone knows, since 1967, elections have been conducted several times on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Any honest, objective person cannot but say that these elections were free and democratic.

The second 'Arafatist pretext to justify rejecting the elections concept claims that this concept is aimed at stopping and ending the intifadah [uprising]. In light of this pretext and its logic, a question imposes itself: Is the so-called intifadah an objective in itself, or do the leaders of the organizations want Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip to continue with the intifadah forever?

At any rate, these weak, unconvincing 'Arafatist pretexts cannot conceal the fact that 'Arafat and the other leaders of organizations reject the concept of elections because they fear the emergence of a responsible Palestinian leadership on the West Bank and Gaza Strip—a leadership that will show practical and ideological independence, reject the dictates of the leaders of the organizations, and confront their ideological and physical terrorism. It is certain that the emergence of such a Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the crystallization of an alternative Palestinian leadership is a nightmare that disturbs the sleep of 'Arafat and his aides.

The fact that all the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in fact all the Palestinians, should think about carefully and take into consideration is that the concept of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, if it is actually achieved, will be a good beginning and prove that it is a prelude to achieving an honorable, satisfactory settlement of the Palestine question and the comprehensive peace aspired to in our region.

FRG's Scholz Pays Official Visit to Israel

Arrives, Meets Rabin

TA0904173789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] This evening West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz arrived for a 3-day visit in Israel as a guest of Defense Minister Rabin. At Ben-Gurion Airport Mr Rabin said that, despite the fact that Israel cannot forget the past, it has found ways to cooperate with the FRG with the future in mind.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that during Minister Scholz' tour in Israel he will meet the president, the vice prime minister, and the foreign minister. In addition, he will be briefed on security conditions in the region.

Denies Arms Contracts

LD1004192989 Hamburg DPA in German 1852 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Tel Aviv (DPA)—FRG Defense Minister Rupert Scholz has denied reports that he will conclude contracts on arms supplies during his 3-day official talks in Israel. Scholz told journalists in Tel Aviv on Monday evening that neither the purchase of ammunition nor the supply of submarines to Israel is on the agenda of his visit.

During his meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday, they referred "only in passing" to the order for two German submarines that Israel temporarily deferred to a short while ago. "The matter is just not under discussion at all yet," the minister said.

Scholz indicated that he is "disturbed by the deep worry" with which the Israeli military regards the chemical arms build-up in the Middle East—including with the help of German firms. "The great fear (of the Israelis) has become even clearer to me here," the minister said.

Scholz reaffirmed Bonn's support for Israel. "Israel's position must be guaranteed," he said. At the same time he conceded: "But there are also the rights of the Palestinians." In his talks with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Finance Minister Shimon Peres, and "probably also with President Chaim Herzog" this Tuesday he will also "put critical questions on the security situation." On the other hand "we are not Israel's mentors. One can only put questions here with critical sympathy," Scholz stressed.

On Anxiety on Missile

LD1104142389 Hamburg DPA in German 1334 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Jerusalem (DPA)—Federal Defense Minister Rupert Schloz has strongly condemned the presumed involvement of German firms in armament projects in the Middle East and has expressed "full understanding" for the anxiety of the Israeli Government over this development. In a conversation with the GERMAN PRESS AGENCY (DPA) the minister said today in Jerusalem. "There is a real danger here and if people are worried in Israel that Western countries or corresponding firms are involved in the production of such weapons then I have expressed understanding here, in the name of the federal government."

On Israeli reports of the involvement of Messerschmitt Boelkow-Blohm in the development of the medium-range Condor II missile in Egypt, Iraq, and Argentina, Schloz said: "We do not yet have enough information to be able to make a conclusive assessment. Nevertheless, this development shows that we must tackle events of this kind with every rigouressness and firmness." Scholz, who met Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Finance Minister Shi'mon Peres today in Jerusalem, stressed that he "outlined to Arens that the federal government is fully resolved to see that nothing terrible happens here."

Schloz did however stress Israel's military superiority over its Arab neighbors. However, he admitted: "If the danger of war is stirred up with such chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, then this creates a dimension against which one is easily defenseless, and which has terrible consequences. Therefore Israel's anxiety here has to be taken very seriously." Every person who "is active in this way abroad is not only doing something morally irresponsible but also something illegal," Scholz warned.

Arens Asks About Missile

LD1104153989 Hamburg DPA in German 1502 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Jerusalem (DPA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has asked Federal Minister of Defense Rupert Scholz for clarification on the involvement of FRG firms in arms projects in the Middle East. After talks with his Bonn guest Arens said today in Jerusalem that he had "asked about the participation of West German firms in some arms projects in Middle Eastern Arab states which are in a state of war with us."

Arens was reacting to press reports according to which the FRG enterprise Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB) sold plans for the construction of the medium-range missile Condor 2 to Egypt, Iraq, and Argentina. [passage omitted]

Arens Expresses Concern

TA1104162989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today met the West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz and expressed Israel's grave concern regarding the involvement of citizens and companies abroad—including in Germany—in developing the offensive capabilities of the countries in confrontation with Israel. The visiting minister said that his country still lacks information regarding Iraq's nuclear development plan, a plan in which—according to media reports—West German, Argentine, and Egyptian companies are involved. He promised, at the same time, that his country will act toward preventing the participation of German companies in such projects, either through legislation or stricter implementation of existing laws.

PRC 'Sources' on Institutionalization of Ties

TA0904203489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] PRC diplomatic sources in Paris say that relations with Israel will be institutionalized through the Israeli academic center to be established in the PRC, and through

the Chinese tourism office that will open in Israel. Diplomatic relations, however, will not be formed before a settlement for the Middle East dispute is reached.

The diplomatic sources told our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts, that no joint PRC-USSR initiative for a settlement in the Middle East should be expected following a summit meeting between the two heads of state next month.

Air Force Commander on Libyan Sukhois

TA0904192289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Israel Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun says the Soviet supply of Sukhoi-24 bombers to Arab countries will mean an increase of Israel investment in its air capability. General Bin-Nun says whatever the level of the Libyan pilots who are to get the Soviet bomber, Israel must prepare for the possibility that the plane will penetrate Israeli air-space. The Air Force commander was talking to Alan Ben-'Ami at a ceremony in which Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] received [as heard] its first upgraded F-4 Phantom plane. This as part of IAI's Phantom-2000 program intended to modernize the Air Force's squadrons for operational missions beyond the year 2000.

[Begin recording] [Bin-Nun] The Sukhoi-24 to Libya, and maybe later to Syria, is another threat that brings the Arab air forces to a better capability mainly in the attack air-to-ground capability. It will bring the Libyans or the Syrians to the same capability that the Saudis are getting with the Tornado, and will bring us, the Israeli Air Force, to a position that we will have to spend more on air defense in order to prevent them from penetrating.

[Ben-'Ami] Nevertheless, it will take some time to supply and train pilots to fly the Sukhoi-24s. In addition is the question of the refueling capability of the Libyan pilots. How would you rate the Libyan pilots?

[Bin-Nun] I cannot rate them, but what I know is that with time and training every pilot can come to a minimum level that can fulfill a mission of a Sukhoi-24. We take into account that even if some people say that they are at a low level, we take into account that they might get to the level that will enable them to threaten Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] General Bin-Nun, the Air Force is receiving today what is being described as a virtually new aircraft, the upgraded Phantom. How would you describe the plane?

[Bin-Nun] The main mission of the airplane will be air-to-ground, so in the air-to-air capability it will not be a major change. It will be able to deal with threats of the modern battlefield, but its main virtue will be in the air-to-ground role.

[Ben-'Ami] You have flown in the Phantom. If you were to get into the cockpit of a new one, what would be the things that would be new for you?

[Bin-Nun] The cockpit will be a different, modern cockpit, a heads-up display, a modern radar scope, switches, and so on, but the main thing is not the cockpit and not the scopes and the heads-up display, but the computers and the capabilities behind the instruments, and not the instruments themselves. [end recording]

Bar-Lev: Banning Arabs From Temple Not Discussed

TA0904120889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] In the absence of Prime Minister Shamir because of his visit to the United States, the Cabinet meeting was chaired by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. He said that the government views with gravity the attempt to attack worshippers near the Wailing Wall, and authorizes the security forces to take action so that such events do not recur in the future.

At the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting, Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev told me that there might have been a connection between the riot and the fact that Shamir is conducting political talks in Washington, but the main reason was that it was the first day of Ramadan.

[Begin Bar-Lev recording] It is, of course, a very grave phenomenon, but it is the exception and not the rule. For about 1 year, we saw the Friday prayers ending quietly, and last Friday's riot is something we have not seen for a long time. In the future, we will take steps to prevent this from happening again. For example, most of the rioters are inhabitants of the territories and not Jerusalemites. [end recording]

The minister added that theoretically there is the option of not permitting the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to enter the Temple Mount, but that this possibility has still not been discussed.

The defense minister reported on the destruction of the terrorist vessel in northern Israel.

[Moderator Karmit Gay] Did the Cabinet debate or hear a report on Shamir's visit to the United States?

[Kohen] No, the issue was not raised at all, but there were several remarks linked to it. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, for instance, asked the defense minister if now that Shamir has raised his election proposal for the territories with the U.S. President, has Israel made special preparations for the elections, such as contacts with the population on the issue, and has he broached ideas on the rehabilitation of the refugee camps and on ways of dealing with the intifadah [uprising]? Defense

Minister Rabin replied by saying that, until there is a government decision on elections in the territories, no preparations would be made.

SLA Base Comes Under Mortar Fire, Retaliates

TA0804153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] position near the village of Hula on the border of the security zone came under mortar fire this afternoon. There were no casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon headquarters that the SLA retaliated by directing artillery fire at terrorist bases north of the security zone for approximately 1 hour.

Sicarii Claims Responsibility for Arab Death

TA1104063289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Excerpt] A man reportedly dressed in an army uniform and toting an Uzi submachine gun opened fire on four Palestinians outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate yesterday, killing one and wounding the others, Jerusalem police chief Yosef Yehuday said. The killer, apparently Jewish, escaped by foot, Yehuday added.

The Sicarii, the mysterious Jewish underground movement, claimed responsibility for the attack. An anonymous phone caller telephoned Israel Radio's West Bank reporter Arye Gus and said the Sicarii had carried out the shooting to avenge the stoning of Jews by Palestinians—apparently a reference to Friday's disturbances at the Temple Mount when demonstrators hurled rocks at the Western Wall. [passage omitted]

'Spokesman' on Goals, Methods

TA1104151389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Sicarii organization has announced its intention of stepping up its activities that are designed to improve the condition of Jews in the territories. In a conversation with IDF Radio staffer 'Adi Talmor, a man representing himself as the organization's spokesman said that the Sicarii have the support of a political movement that he refused to name. We aim to improve the condition of the Jews in the territories so as to enable them to travel freely throughout the entirety of Eretz Yisra'el, said the spokesman.

He noted that the organization has resorted to violent methods after the failure of alternative ways that it had attempted, including negotiations. The spokesman stressed that to this date, the Sicarii have not hurt Jews, but he reiterated the warning to all those who have received warnings from his organization, and those who will receive warnings. He did not state whether the organization intends to harm Jews.

Jews may not speak to criminals, or to Arabs in general, said the spokesman. When asked whether he can prove the existence of the Sicarii organization, the man said: Proof will be furnished.

IDF Colonel Expelled for 'Improper Behavior'

TA1004160489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Apr 89 p A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The chief of staff has expelled Colonel Yehuda Me'ir, the former commander of the Nabulus area, from the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. The Military Police had investigated charges of improper behavior by the colonel toward Arabs. After receiving the military advocate general's legal opinion, Chief of Staff Shomron summoned Col Me'ir and told him that he must leave the army or stand trial in a military court.

Col Me'ir was the commander of the Nabulus area at the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. At that time, several complaints of brutal and improper behavior were voiced regarding his attitude toward Arabs. His name was linked to the "bulldozer incident" and the "beating soldiers" from Nabulus. Col Me'ir once served as the commander of the eight NAHAL soldiers who were taken prisoner by Ahmad Jibril's forces during the Lebanon war.

After receiving complaints about Me'ir's actions toward Arabs, Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, decided to transfer Me'ir to a different post in the center of Israel. Me'ir was meanwhile promoted to colonel.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron recently received the findings of the Military Police investigation of the officer and the military advocate general's opinion. He was impressed by the severity of the charges, summoned the colonel, and told him he must face disciplinary proceedings and leave the IDF, or stand trial in a military court.

Col Me'ir will leave his post in the near future and retire from military service. A senior military source said that the IDF would assist the officer in finding civilian employment.

This is a rare case of such far-reaching steps being taken against a senior army officer over relations with the Arab population in the territories. The most famous instance was in May 1978 when former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman decided to relieve Brigadier General David Hago'el, the commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, of his post. The background for that decision was the use of tear gas in a school in Bayt Jala.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA1004180789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Two Arabs were wounded today during disturbances in the Gaza Strip. A resident of Al-Burayj was injured during disturbances in the refugee camp, and another resident was injured in Rafah. The two were hit by plastic bullets fired by army soldiers forced to shoot at rioters.

Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that workers left for their jobs in Israel, and commercial life and studies were conducted as usual. The army spokesman reported that there were no special incidents.

Prisoners Riot in Ramla

TA1004190889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Wardens were forced to use tear gas today to disperse security prisoners who rioted at the Nitzan detention facility in Ramla. Order was restored after a short while. Our police affairs correspondent Zohar Melamed reports that it is still unclear what caused the riot.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 10 April, in a report by police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov, adds that the leader of the prisoners was taken for questioning.]

2 Arabs Sentenced to Prison

TA1004191189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Muhammad 'Abdallah Farjalyah, aged 27, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, was today sentenced in the Gaza military court to 2 years in prison with an additional 3-year suspended sentence. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that he was accused of possessing a firearm.

Rami Raja' Farazi, aged 21, from Gaza, was convicted by the court of membership in the popular committees, participation in disturbances, recruitment of new members to the popular committees, incitement, and disseminating hostile propaganda. He was sentenced to 18-months imprisonment with an additional 18-month suspended sentence. He was also fined 2,000 shekels.

2 Arab Papers Banned

TA1104101189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration yesterday banned the distribution of the AL-NAHAR newspaper in Judaea and Samaria for 1 week, because of breaches of censorship. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the distribution of AL-FAJR was also forbidden for 2 days for the same reason.

Hebron Arab Killed by IDF

TA1104101789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] A 22-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed late last night in a clash with soldiers in Hebron.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said masked men threw stones at a patrol, after which the soldiers opened fire at the attackers from short range, killing Jamil Natshah.

Palestinian sources said several persons were also wounded in the clash. [passage omitted]

The head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank, Brig. Gen. Shay Erez, yesterday met with a large group of Moslem religious leaders, including heads of Islamic Trust (Waqf) offices, and persons associated with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Administration sources said the topics discussed included reducing friction between troops and worshippers during this month's Ramadan fast, and the possibility of reopening schools in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

General Strike in Gaza Strip

TA1104122189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Gaza Strip is strikebound in response to a call by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to mark the 1st anniversary of the expulsion of Islamic activists Shaykh Khalil al-Quqa. In the early hours of the morning, some residents left for work in Israel, but later there was no movement out of the Strip. A number of refugee camps in the area are under curfew.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 11 April reports that "a general commercial strike is under way in East Jerusalem, and many education institutions are also strikebound."]

'Perplexity' Over U.S. Response To Mubarak, Shamir

JN0804075589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Sanguine Americans"]

[Text] When Presidents George Bush and Husni Mubarak emerged from their recent meetings in Washington all smiles, the peoples and governments of the Arab World were elated to the point of ecstasy.

The euphoria among the Arab side was bolstered by President Bush's dramatic declaration that Israel must end its occupation of Arab territories, accept the political rights of the Palestinian people, and prepare itself to a "properly structured" international conference in due course.

But when President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker also emerged all smiles from their encounters with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in spite of the Arab repudiation of Shamir's infamous terms for peace in the Middle East, pessimism seaped in and perplexity ensued.

Uppermost on the minds of the Arab side is how the American administration can be equally satisfied and happy with two clearly contradictory positions offered by the Arab and Israeli sides thus far if not down right repugnant to one another?

To be sure the exact and full message of Shamir to the U.S. has yet to be divulged, which gave some optimists a cause to suggest that Shamir has said something which the American administration has interpreted as offering some kind of a breakthrough.

One still has to be too sanguine to the point of naivety to ever expect Shamir to offer anything that could be reasonable. Even members of his own government has already concluded that their prime minister is incapable of proposing anything that resembles a breakthrough.

So what did Shamir have to say to the U.S. chief executive and his senior aides that won him so much acclaim in Washington? Everyone in the Middle East had anticipated some kind of eyeball to eyeball confrontation between President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir. That obviously did not happen.

If there are really good reasons for the non-fulfillment of the Arab prophecy then all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict would sigh with relief. But if in fact there are no good explanations, then the forces of peace working diligently for a just and durable solution to the Middle East conflict will have a real cause for concern.

AL-RA'Y Urges U.S. To Develop 'Positive' Stand

JN0904094289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Apr 89 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "Peace Is an Arab Option"]

[Text] It is only natural that we now pin great hopes on His Majesty King Husayn's coming visit to Washington and his expected meeting with U.S. President George Bush, especially since this meeting will take place between two friendly heads of state.

The U.S. President and his Secretary of State James Baker show serious interest in the peace process in the Middle East. We notice, follow up on, and evaluate this interest.

Minister of Information Hani al-Khasawinah explained this fact in answer to a question by REUTER. He affirmed that the logic called for by Shamir and his insistence on rejecting the international conference, not recognizing the Arab identity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, accusing the PLO of terrorism, and ignoring the positive trends of its leadership is a logic that does not serve the interest of the peace process.

In light of this, it could be said that the expected result of the meeting between King Husayn and President Bush on the 19th of this month will be very important, especially since his majesty will affirm the commitment to the Arab stand's pillars. These pillars were expressed by positive trends and were met with understanding and appreciation from the European countries and the U.S. Administration itself.

At the same time, hope remains strong President Bush will translate his serious interest in the peace process in the region in a way which would lead to activating the peace process and liberating it from Israeli stubbornness, which still hampers it and prevents its launching.

The option of peace is an all-Arab option in which the Palestinian people take part clearly and unanimously. To render this option successful, the U.S. Administration should not allow Shamir to abort it with his impossible conditions or far-fetched suggestions on the requirements of true peace.

There is no doubt that President Bush's affirmation on ending the Israeli occupation of the land it occupied in 1967 and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the letter are important indicators highlighting the outlines of a positive U.S. stand which, we hope, will develop and receive the mechanism leading to the achievement of its goals.

This mechanism, according to our view and the view of the majority of the international community, is represented in an international conference with full powers in

which the permament members of the Security Council and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict participate, including the PLO, and held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Therefore, we are hopeful that the U.S. stand will achieve the aspired progress and attain the required mechanism, especially since the meeting which will be held between King Husayn and President Bush—who are two friendly heads of state—will give them the opportunity to exchange points of view frankly and confidently.

Columnist Describes U.S. Stand as 'Non-Stand'

JN0904104289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Apr 89 p 18

[Ibrahim Sakkijha's "Quick Look" column: "The Preparation Stage for the U.S. Stand"]

[Text] Any description could be used nowadays to describe the U.S. stand on the Middle East peace process. And every description could be accurate or, very close to it. It all depends on the circumstance from which this stand proceeds, and the party describing it.

The U.S. stand is possible and impossible, acceptable and unacceptable, progressive without having been touched by any human being, and developed yet static.

In actual fact, it is fluctuating, because simply there still is no U.S. stand.

In fact, one of the local newspapers in two different places in one day said about the U.S. stand: The United States continues its bias toward the aggressor; and in another place it said: In fact there is an important change in the U.S. stand. In context, it is understood that the important transformation is to the benefit of peace.

What causes the U.S. stand to contradict itself daily is that it is characterized by reaction and has not yet reached the stage of action. Nobody knows when it will reach this stage. All that the U.S. officials are doing at the moment is commenting on the contradicting stands of others with interests in the cause.

If they talk to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, they agree with his opinion on the necessity of ending Israel's occupation of the West Banka and the Gaza Strip. They also declare that their final objective is to establish a comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and apply the principle of land in exchange for peace, Israel's security, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. This is a positive U.S. stand.

If they talk with the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, they affirm to him their opposition to the establishment of the Palestinian state, support him in his refusal to recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians, and their agreement on the elections he dreams to hold in the shadow of his tanks and soldiers' bullets to execute the Palestinian split from Camp David. This is a negative U.S. stand.

In this way, we see the U.S. stand as a 'non-stand' or jumping between stands or under the best assumptions and possibilities at the stage of preparing a stand.

We hope that this last possibility does not take long because the U.S. stand toward the Middle East peace process is basic and decisive for recognition from all sides; nay, in fact implemented upon their demand. It is coupled with an Arab request from God to inspire the American friends with wisdom and level-headedness. Amen.

Columnist Considers Merits of Shamir Proposal

JN1004141289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
10 Apr 89 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" by Walid Sa'di: "First Things First"]

[Text] It seems to me that there are more things going on in and around the peace process than meet the eye. One thing is certainly clear now: All that is going on informally and formally between some of the players in the Middle Eastern politics is not being conducted in a vacuum.

The perimeters of the projected settlement between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict are being painstakingly drawn and slowly but surely put in definite shape and form.

Semantically, the words that are often used to delineate these perimeters include such words as elections, interim solutions, PLO participation, international conference—which would include Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

The jargon introduced recently by President George Bush, during his talks with President Husni Mubarak, included the call for an end to Israeli occupation of the Arab territories occupied in the war of 1967, the fulfillment of the Palestinian political rights, and the convening of a properly structured international conference. Of course this is not to mention the chorus singing about the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 ever since 1967.

So the Middle East pot is full to its outer limits with ideas, principles and dictums. What is left is to introduce the strings of thoughts on the Middle East in proper order, in suitable doses and at the right time.

Take for example the notion of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Standing alone, on its own and on its own merits, it could be either good or bad depending on its timing, correlation and relationship with the other features of the projected settlement.

If relativity in Middle Eastern politics and diplomacy has any application, it is now—when one talks about elections in the occupied territories. Yet accross the wide spectrum, of interpretation, the thought of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is open for construction: either a red herring or decoy thrown deliberately to derail the consensus in favour of holding an international peace conference, or to seek alternative Palestinian representation to the PLO.

That could explain the ambivalent feeling among some Palestinians towards the notion of elections and its rejection by the majority of them. This is in spite of the fact that the Palestinian side has always been the champion of democratically elected representatives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Accordingly what makes any of the words, thoughts or proposals associated with the peace process in the Middle East acceptable or repugnant is their relative place within the greater equation that could serve as the foundtation for a durable and just peace between the two sides.

Thus if elections were to be deployed as an integral part of a whole process that could lead to an equitable, just and permanent peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference in which all the parties to the conflict including the PLO would participate, then all the quarrel about it would end and it would cease to be such a contentious issue as it is today. But if elect tions are intended to serve as a subterfuge to frustrate the PLO's role in the peace process then obviously it should be turned down.

And what applies to elections would apply with equal force to all other ingredients in the Middle East pot. That is why the Arab side including the Palestinians was found great comfort and satisfaction with the initial words of President George Bush when he outlined his administration's main feature of a settlement in the Middle East as one to be constructed on the edifice of ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, granting the Palestinians their political rights and convening an international conference to which all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO would be invited.

The aforementioned propositions as offered by President Bush should constitute the basic ingredients in the Middle East pot. Everything else would be less basic and can be introduced in proper and suitable doses at the right time provided the main elements are left there to cook and simmer. Accordingly if elections are introduced or injected into the overall pot as par and parcel of the pot, no one in his right mind would quarrel with it.

But as long as there is fear that elections are thought of only as an end in themselves or as a decoy to replace the PLO's rightful place in the peace process, then one has legitimate cause to flush out this thought and abort its introduction.

Syrians Reportedly Deploy Guns in West Beirut

NC1004180889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrians deployed naval guns [madafi bahriyah] with a range of 22 km in the Holiday Inn area in West Beirut on Saturday night. The report adds that yesterday ranking Syrian naval officers arrived in the area, which was declared a Syrian military zone. Units of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib's forces will guard the area to prevent any armed or party elements from reaching it. Only those carrying permits from Syrian intelligence will be allowed access to the area.

Security sources linked the deployment of these guns to the expected arrival at Al-Duq of the French fuel tanker.

Army Aims 'To Avoid' Damaging French Ships

NC1104122489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Acting Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib has stressed that upholding the cease-fire depends on General Michel 'Awn who has imposed a naval and land siege, made decisions, raised slogans, and ignored all the people.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR paper, he said that the decision of the Army Command in Beirut regarding the two French ships stems from a feeling of responsibility and is intended to avoid having these ships damaged.

Responding to a question on the French stand of responding to any bombardment of ships that sail under the French flag, he said: We do not in fact understand this matter. He aded: Are we firing on these ships when they are in Toulon [French sea port]? They will be subjecting themselves to shelling if they enter Lebanese territorial waters. We have warned them beforehand about the area that will be shelled. He stressed that there is military coordination with more than one local party if the shelling develops. We will then reply with 20 guns for every gun fired.

Al-Khatib said that 'Awn wants to become president of the republic even at the expense of ruin and destruction.

PSP Warns France Not To Send Naval Ships

NC1004170389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has strongly condemned the French political campaign against the Lebanese people's interests and ambitions. This campaign, it said, has imperialist and Crusader-like connotations that are contrary to all human principles and rights.

In a statement following its meeting today, the Political Bureau said that the French campaign is serving a group that is controlling Christian decisionmaking by force and is seeking to draw the Christians and Lebanon into the whirlpool of Israeli and imperialist plans. It stressed that France has not learned the lessons of the events of 1983 in Beirut, when the nationalist forces forced the French forces and their allies in the multinational force to withdraw from Beirut.

The PSP Political Bureau statement warned that this French role helps to expose Christians in the entire east to reactions similar to those we have seen throughout history, which still arouse painful memories.

The Political Bureau has decided to declare, on behalf of all the nationalist forces, its rejection of any French humanitarian aid to the Lebanese. What is needed is a political stand that serves man and his rights in Lebanon.

The statement warned against any attempt to bring French warships and naval vessels into any Lebanese port under any pretext.

The Political Bureau also reiterated its rejection of all attempts to internationalize the Lebanese crisis and said that this course will lead to a repetition of the 1982 tragedy. Every attempt to bypass nationalist demands will only help prolong and complicate the crisis, it said.

Salim al-Huss Receives French Secretary

NC1104091789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received at 1030 today Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, accompanied by French Ambassador in Lebanon Paul Blanc.

A meeting of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is expected to be held later today. Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and Nabih Birri have so far arrived for the meeting.

Further on Meeting

NC1104112789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, accompanied by French Ambassador Paul Blanc, called on Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1030 today and discussed with him the issue of French assistance to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

After the conclusion of his meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss at 1145, the French official held a news conference in which he said: My visit with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss was a friendly one. This meeting

actually gave me the opportunity to dispel the misunderstanding which had arisen recently. France's position has not changed at this stage of the conflict and continues to be based on the interests of all the Lebanese.

The issue is not just that of humanitarian assistance. The basic political position will not change irrespective of the statements and interpretations of such statements. The policy of my country has not changed and remains in favor of a political solution. France is determined to get the assistance to all the Lebanese.

Kouchner added: The dispatch of aid to one side to the exclusion of the other is not only meaningless, but it also will be very harmful politically. All of the Lebanese are suffering, and we will try to assist everyone. We will hold another meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss.

Kouchner expressed the hope that the French humanitarian and fuel assistance would be acceptable to all sides. He said: Following our second meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss, we will define how this assistance will be distributed, in accordance with the approval of all the Lebanese.

Kouchner added: I emphasize that there is no political dimension to this aid, which is coming from one people to another. We maintain not only collective ties with the Lebanese, but also individual ties of cordiality and love with the Lebanese. Nothing has changed. Our hand is extended to all the Lebanese.

Kouchner was asked: Have you been given guarantees to bring this aid to Lebanon?

He replied: There are no guarantees at present. We are seeking an internal accord among all the parties.

He was then asked: When will you receive an answer from the Al-Huss government regarding the arrival of the two ships?

He answered: The arrival of the two ships will take place after an agreement has been reached with the French Government. We are now trying to remove the misunderstanding which has arisen. We do not want the policy of the extended hand and brotherhood to lead to a sort of misunderstanding and political disagreement. [passage omitted]

Envoy on Undesired Aid

NC1104161689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, said after his talks with Salim al-Huss, that France cannot send ships and humanitarian aid unless this aid is wanted by all the parties. Consequently, he ruled out that the hospital ship "Rance" would arrive tomorrow, Wednesday, at Beirut Port, as had been expected. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Cabinet Meeting Decides To Decline Aid

NC1104161389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The cabinet met under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today. Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, Nabih Birri, and Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi attended and discussed current developments. After the meeting, a statement was issued. The statement said: The Lebanese Government has decided to decline the French aid. However, it does not want to deprive the minority, which France supports to the exclusion of the other minorities in Lebanon, of benefiting from the aid which has been characterized as humanitarian.

Therefore, the government calls on the French Government to direct the ships carrying its aid to the port of Tripoli for unloading there and immediate dispatch to whoever and wherever the French Government desires. The army command [of Major General Sami al-Khatib] in Beirut is prepared to use all its capabilities to accomplish this operation.

The statement also said: If France supports the Arab committee's task, it should help the committee to implement the following three steps advocated by committee Chairman Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah: To observe a cease-fire, to lift the blockade on all the ports, and to revive the central security committee. By implementing these steps, security and stability will be restored and the Lebanese will thankfully accept generous aid from every friend and brother.

Fadlallah on U.S., French 'Interference'

NC1104080289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the Lebanese issue is now fair game for all Arabs, Europeans, Americans and Soviets. He has noted that all the small problems facing the Lebanese are part of a scheme engineered to exhaust the people and thus force them to make hasty concessions here and there in order to organize certain matters in the near and distant future.

His eminence has asserted that the question of partition and division is a form of political intimidation designed to create political problems for those concerned with the Lebanese problem.

Commenting on recent French movements, his eminence has said that France is playing a role motivated by a French complex in an attempt to further interfere in Lebanon and thus assume a distinctive position. He has pointed out that America allowed France in the present stage to play the role of the European state that tries to contain part of the Lebanese problem. In this way, the

French role can balance the U.S.-inspired Arab committee efforts to contain another part of the problem. The ultimate aim is to enable the U.S. Administration to exercise pressure on the Lebanese parties through Arab and European elements.

Commenting on recent U.S. statements on the Palestinian issue, Ayatollah Fadlallah asserted that the Bush administration is trying to succeed in what Shultz failed to do; namely, to contain the intifadah [uprising]. He added that the administration may not be able to do this unless its approach is unique and different from those of other major states, particularly the Soviet Union.

Junblatt Refuses French Meeting Before Apology

NC1104144689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has refused to meet with any French official before France apologizes to the Arab people in Lebanon.

In an interview with AFP, Junblatt said that any French political intervention in Lebanon might lead to a military intervention. He added that French envoy Deniau insulted the Arabs, the Lebanese, and the Druze during his visit to Beirut last week. He said that he refused to attend the cabinet session today because French envoy bernard Kouchner was in government house.

Walid Junblatt went on to say: We do not need the fuel, and we refuse to let any ship enter Beirut Port. The question is a political one, and political intervention might lead to military intervention, like what took place in 1860 when the forces of French Emperor Napolean III intervened to help Lebanon's Christians who were then in a difficult position opposite the Druze.

Junblatt added: I have the honor of belonging to the Bani Ma'ruf sect which expelled the French from Jabal al-'Arab during the Druze revolt against the Mandate in 1926.

Phalangist Party Issues Statement on France

NC1004164089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau and Central Council held an expanded meeting today under party leader Dr George Sa'adah.

Dr Sa'adah began the meeting by reviewing the general situation in the country, particularly the security situation and the artillery shelling targeted at vital economic and humanitarian installations, which is continuing despite the claims by these parties that they have ceased fire. He called on all citizens to stand fast against this new wave, because this is not the first time that Lebanon has faced such an onslaught. We will emerge victorious, as we always do when we face such great ordeals, he said.

The Phalangist Party leader then dealt with international intiatives on the existing situation in the country. He expressed hope that the efforts will be united to help Lebanon and end the war being waged against it by foreign forces. He added that no other people has faced such a war and such a war cannot be accepted in terms of any international law or norm.

Dr Sa'adah praised the high-level French moves and the effective social and humanitarian efforts that parallel the political efforts in various countries, particularly in major ones. He condemned the rabid campaign against the French role and said that France has not differentiated between one Lebanese and another in any social, humanitarian, or medical respect. He also denounced the stands taken by some countries toward the French initiatives, particularly Iran, which has permitted itself to intervene militarily and politically in Lebanese internal affairs for some time now. He added that Iran has exploited this intervention through the local and international terrorism it practises.

Regarding the fourth stage of the work of the six-member Arab committee, Dr Sa'adah briefed the conferees on the results of the ongoing consultations with the Lebanese Front, the front's stand, and his contacts with [Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus] al-Jasim. Sa'adah reiterated that the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces have fully and positively cooperated with the Arab committee since the latter's formation.

This cooperation, he added, followed our persistent efforts to have a Lebanese-Lebanese initiative, which external circumstances have prevented. He stressed that these parties have not and will not boycott the Arab committee but that the security conditions and the siege of the eastern areas prevented the holding of last week's meeting. But we are ready to hold it at the earliest possible opportunity, he said. [passage omitted]

The meeting ended a few minutes ago and the following political statement was issued:

1. The continuous bombardment of the eastern areas is a clear expression of the intentions of Lebanon's enemies, who are continuing to terrorize the citizens so as to make them live in fear and anxiety. However, this will only make the citizens more committed to their determination to resist and liberate the homeland.

2. The Phalangist Party declares its firm and constant support for the stands of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and its backing for these stands, within the context of the clear policy of confrontation he is adopting to liberate Lebanon and end its tribulation.

3. Out of its conviction of Lebanon's effective Arab role, the Phalangist Party stresses the importance of the role played by the Arab good offices committee. It calls for the continuation of this role in complete isolation from all aspects of the ongoing conflict. The committee should

emphasize the supremacy o
equality and put things wit
order to save Lebanon. Thi
for the Arab League to prov
and effectiveness in tackling

4. The Phalangist Party expr
gratitude to the French pre
ment, leaders, and people fo
geous stand in support of Leb
before world public opinion,
conscience of the world so th
human tragedy of this era.
extent of sympathy between
peoples that stems from deep

It also expresses the old Fr
human rights and the freedo
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appeals to all other countrie

French Envoy Terms Meeti
*NC1104095089 Beirut Voice
0915 GMT 11 Apr 89*

[Text] Following his meetin
Minister General Michel
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Asked whether France woul
assistance if the Lebanese d
said: I have made no statemen
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tarian mission meant for all

Asked about the possibility
French ships, Kouchner sai
later.

We would like to note that K
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Salim al-Huss. French Am
Ambassador Salah Sutaytiya

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Arab issues.

esses deep appreciation and
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anon, for placing the problem
and for violently shaking the
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This strongly expresses the
the Lebanese and French
-rooted historical ties.

nch tradition of defending
n of homelands and peoples
halangist Party also thanks
e Lebanese in this crisis and
s to follow this example.

ng With 'Awn 'Positive'
of Lebanon in Arabic

g this morning with Prime
Awn, Bernard Kouchner,
humanitarian action, stated
ive. He added: We had a
n in Lebanon.

ributing the humanitarian
-fire will continue, he said.
ture to talk about details.
uld be acceptable to all.
assured Gen 'Awn that this
the Lebanese. I hope the
said. Kouchner noted that
nese officials.

d cancel the humanitarian
not agree on it, Kouchner
t to this effect. We are trying
n entrusted with a humani-
he Lebanese, he said.

of an attack on the two
d: We will talk about this

ouchner has headed for the
re he was received by Dr
bassador Paul Blanc and
h attended the meeting.

Michel 'Awn on Crisis, Ties With Syria

*PM1104075489 Paris LE FIGARO in French
7 Apr 89 p 4*

[Interview with Prime Minister Michel 'Awn by Renaud Girard in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Girard] How did you react to the Syrian cease-fire?

['Awn] It is the umpteenth cease-fire in Lebanon.... What I want is for the Syrians to accept real negotiations with me on withdrawal.

[Girard] But the Syrians say that there can only be negotiations among Lebanese, because they claim it is an inter-Lebanese war.

['Awn] You know, no collaborator has ever succeeded in consolidating an occupying force's presence. The latest example is that of the "legal" government in Afghanistan which failed to maintain the Soviet presence. There are many examples in history of a collaboration policy that failed to perpetuate an occupation. The Syrians have Lebanese collaborators who are screens for hiding Syria and pretending that the Lebanese conflict is an inter-Lebanese conflict.

[Girard] Would you be prepared to go to Damascus for talks with President al-Asad?

['Awn] Why go to Damascus? I want to meet with Al-Asad in Geneva, in a city which has an international character and which represents human values. Damascus is the antithesis of Geneva. I will not visit a city which is the antithesis of Geneva.

A Defensive Struggle

[Girard] But are you prepared to meet with him?

['Awn] Yes, I am prepared to meet with him. I want a solution for my country. I am prepared to sacrifice my life. I am therefore prepared to make other sacrifices, including a meeting with Al-Asad.

[Girard] How do you plan to continue this "liberation war?"

['Awn] The upsurge of violence is like the start of a diplomatic operation and the start of a political process. It must be continued. We will continue to inform the press and international public opinion. We still have to mobilize the forces that we have so far failed to mobilize. Military action is not an end in itself. It is a means of reaching a political agreement.

[Girard] Why not take the offensive, move into a war of movement?

['Awn] This liberation war is being fought in the context of an unfavorable balance of forces. For the time being, Syria is militarily stronger. We will therefore wage two kinds of warfare: a conventional defensive war in the region that is free from any Syrian presence and resistance against the Syrian Army in the occupied regions. There will be no war of movement for the time being.

[Girard] Do you envisage sabotage against the Syrian Army?

['Awn] We will resort to all possible methods of warfare and to anything that our imagination suggests to us.

[Girard] You have not ruled out terrorism as a weapon of war. When and how do you intend to use it?

['Awn] There is no terrorism against the occupation. Any terrorism is being used by the Syrians who are taking action against civilians living in peace. Terrorism against any occupying force is an act of war.

Liberation Is the Objective

[Girard] But do you now advocate acts of violence against the Syrian Army by the population in the occupied areas? Or do you prefer to wait?

['Awn] I cannot be explicit on this subject. (A message was brought to the general: Five shells had just fallen on Suk al-Gharb—LE FIGARO editor's note)

[Girard] Are they resuming their attacks?

['Awn] Yesterday, there was great pressure in the world against Syria. The Syrians tried to improve their international position by declaring a cease-fire. But, you see, they were bluffing. At all events, a cease-fire is not our objective.

[Girard] You mentioned Syria's involvement in international drug trafficking. What measures do you plan to take in this respect?

['Awn] First, negotiations. Second, practical steps. Since we have been in control of our territorial waters, we have already stopped three drug trafficking operations. I decided to close the illegal ports to prevent any smuggled arms and drugs from passing through Lebanon.

[Girard] What kind of relations do you have with the Lebanese forces? Samir Ja'ja' does not seem very happy about the fact that he has been excluded from the decisionmaking process....

['Awn] I think that liberation is the main objective of all Lebanese people, and hence of the Lebanese Forces. When such a war is being fought, nobody can say that he is excluded. There is now cooperation with all Lebanese partners. But decisions have to be an individual responsibility, and at present it is my responsibility. Any militia is likely to become a regular army and when the crisis is over, the militia will have to be integrated into the army. Everybody will be welcome at his own level.

[Girard] Why does Druze leader Junblatt support the Syrians when his father was murdered by them?

['Awn] I do not think that he supports them. Junblatt is a fatalist, it is part of the Druze mentality. The Druzes accept things as they are....

[Girard] The officers of the 6th Shi'ite brigade, who are theoretically in the enemy camp, sometimes give information to your soldiers. Do you have much support among the Shi'ite population?

['Awn] Lebanon is not like the other states in the region. Lebanon has a democratic tradition. But I can say that an overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, including the Shi'ites, Sunnites, and Druzes support my own objectives.

[Girard] 'Arafat said: "Palestinian guns are at Michel 'Awn's disposal." What is your reaction?

['Awn] I accept any guns that aspire to help me liberate my country. I would also like the Syrians to place their guns at my disposal. And I would then offer to put my guns at their disposal in their country....

[Girard] The Iraqis have become your main arms suppliers. What is the scope of such an alliance?

['Awn] No, they are not supplying me with arms at present. But I am not worried. So far, I have not needed Iraqi military aid. But, when the time comes, I will have no hesitation in using it.

[Girard] Are you not disappointed with the U.S. wait-and-see attitude?

['Awn] You are kind to describe it as a wait-and-see attitude.... I did not count on them to launch my liberation war. I did not ask them for help from their 6th Fleet. The only thing I asked them to do was to respect the pledges they made in the UN Security Council.

[Girard] Do you think that France has failed in its age-old vocation to protect Lebanon's Christians?

['Awn] No. France protects Lebanon, not the Christians. France is impartial and is respected by all Lebanese for that.

[Girard] Do you not think that France has been too accommodating in its attitude toward Syrian diplomacy?

['Awn] No, because there were no Lebanese defending themselves as there now are. You cannot ask a protector to go further than the interested party.

"I Want French Military Aid"

[Girard] Do you expect military aid from France?

['Awn] I hope for it. Those weapons would only be used to defend our territory. The vast majority of Lebanese officers were trained in French military schools.

[Girard] How do you plan to ensure Lebanese reconciliation?

['Awn] The Syrian disinformation policy is aimed at confusing two separate issues: the occupation and the reforms. We Lebanese are unanimous in thinking that our political system needs to be reformed. But we must be given a chance of sitting down together at a round table and jointly deciding on those reforms. However, with the Syrian presence interposed between the Muslims and Christians, no free dialogue is possible.

[Girard] Junblatt and Nabih Birri, the leader of the moderate Shi'ites, advocate the abolition of religious divisions in politics and the election of a president by universal suffrage. Are you in favor of that?

['Awn] Religious divisions in politics cannot be swept away just like that. It is the legacy of 400 years of cohabitation among minority religious groups in the Middle East which have all experienced persecution. All those communities jealously guard their freedom and individuality. Universal suffrage is only a good thing for a homogeneous people.

[Girard] Do you plan to run for president one day?

['Awn] No. I do not want to be a candidate.

[Girard] Why?

['Awn] Because politics do not interest me. I have said that I will accept the presidency if I am elected without being a candidate, without having to make any approaches. [passage omitted]

CNN, CBS Interviews Reported

NC1004152789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Live or recorded report on General Michel 'Awn's interviews with the Cable News Network and Colombia Broadcasting System by VOL Washington correspondent 'Aziz Ra'd followed by recorded excerpt in English of interview with 'Awn by unidentified CBS correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said in a television interview broadcast yesterday on the Cable News Network (CNN) that he is satisfied with the European understanding of the Lebanese crisis. However, he said that Lebanon is suffering from the lack of U.S. understanding of that crisis.

Michel 'Awn said that he will cooperate for the time being with the Arab League in order to rally support for a Syrian withdrawal. 'Awn mentioned that if these efforts were less than successful, he would seek UN help. European countries, he added, have a better understanding of our problem, but we suffer a lack of U.S. understanding.

[Begin 'Awn recording—in English] [Words indistinct] it does not succeed, we will go to the United Nations. Europe has a better understanding of our crisis, but we suffer from American uncomprehension [as heard] of the crisis. [end 'Awn recording]

And, in an interview with the radio Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) network, Prime Minister 'Awn said that the Lebanese can reach agreement on how to tackle their problems in a free atmosphere if the Syrians leave the country. 'Awn added: We can reach an agreement among all the Lebanese, and we can rebuild the country and rebuild our political system.

General 'Awn was asked how the Syrian withdrawal would affect [Lebanese relations] with Israel. He replied by saying: I believe that it would have a positive effect. We may be able to proceed to the peace conference with a unified stand and to resolve our problems with Israel, as other Arab countries do.

[Begin CBS recording] [CBS correspondent] Speaking from Beirut, 'Awn proclaimed his willingness to give Lebanese Muslims a greater voice in Lebanon's politics, but his ultimate solution is to force Syrian troops to withdraw from Lebanon.

['Awn] If the Syrians are out, the Lebanese can meet in a free atmosphere and discuss their problems together and reach a solution. We can settle up an agreement between all the factions of the Lebanese people and we can rebuild all the country and our political system.

[Correspondent] How would this influence Lebanon's relationship with Israel?

['Awn] Well, I think positively, you know. We can [words indistinct] go to a peace conference together, with a unified will, to solve our problems with Israel, like the other Arab countries. [end CBS recording]

'Aziz Ra'd has spoken to you from Washington. Over to Beirut.

Iraq's Nizar Hamdun Affirms Political Support

NC1104104289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, has told REUTER that Iraq has given and will continue to give every possible assistance to anti-Syrian forces in Lebanon. He added that Iraq supports Lebanon politically. He denied that Iraq has any troops in Lebanon.

Demonstration Reported Before U.S. Embassy

NC1104143089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] A demonstration took place in front of the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar shortly after midday today. The demonstrators, who included Lebanese nationals and a number of members of the U.S. community in Lebanon, carried posters denouncing the U.S. silence on what is happening in Lebanon and demanding that human rights in Lebanon be defended.

Among the posters which were carried, some said the Marines' blood calls for the defense of the Lebanese people's liberty.

Students Send Baker Message

NC1104160289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Lebanese university students held a peaceful demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar this afternoon. They denounced the actions of the Syrian occupation forces in Lebanon and urged the United States to adopt a clear and open position with regard to the Lebanese issue and to reconsider U.S. Secretary of State Baker's stand on the matter. A delegation of the Lebanese university students sent a message to Secretary Baker via the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

Troops From North Said To Join Al-Yarzah

NC1104150689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY cites reliable reports from the North that some Lebanese Army personnel have refused to undergo training with Syrian weapons or to receive orders from Syrian officers. Approximately 700 troops of various ranks have succeeded in abandoning their posts and have joined the Lebanese Army's command headquarters in Al-Yarzah. They made the journey across the Jubayl hills.

'Violent Clashes' Occur on Suq al-Gharb Lines

NC1104143789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Violent clashes occurred on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines in the mountain between 1500 and 1515 today. Various types of weapons were used in the fighting, and shells fell in nearby residential areas.

Meanwhile, following a bout of bombardment this morning, the Jubayl coast's outskirts were the target of a number of shells between 1430 and 1500 today. A number of shells also fell on the Kasrawan coast betwen 1400 and 1430 this afternoon. The bombardment came from Syrian artillery emplacements in the mountain and West Beirut.

Reportage on Visit by CSSR's Milos Jakes

Arrives, Talks With Al-Asad

JN1004191489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpts] At 1700 today Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] and head of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front, arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in response to an invitation by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Leading the welcoming party at Damascus International Airport was His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Also on hand were Comrades 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party; Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Ba'th Party; and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, who heads the escort mission, as well as the Czech ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest in the VIP lounge, the president and his esteemed guest proceeded in a state motorcade to Tishrin Palace, where the Czech leader will be staying.

Comrade Jakes' delegation comprises party and government officials, including Jozef Lenart, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Secretariat; Jaromir Obzina, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and deputy premier of the government; Michal Stefanak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and director of the International Affairs Department of the Central Committee; Minister of Foreign Trade Jan Sterba; Deputy Foreign Minister Jaromir Nehera; Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Jirir Nemec; State Minister Karel Loebl; and Alois Reznik, Czech ambassador in Damascus.

The talks between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Comrade Milos Jakes got underway at 1815 today at the Damascan Hall. The talks took up international and Middle East developments as well as bilateral ties. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Addresses Banquet

JN1104080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Apr 89

["Full recording" of a speech delivered by President Hafiz al-Asad at a dinner banquet in honor of Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] and head of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front—in Damascus on 10 April]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Milos Jakes, dear Czechoslovak friends, comrades, gentlemen: It is with extreme pleasure that I wholeheartedly welcome esteemed Comrade Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary and head of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front; and the comrades members of the Czechoslovak delegation.

I greet Comrade Milos Jakes as a struggler who had a prominent role in building socialism in his country and as a representative of a country with which we have firm relations that go back many years. The Syrian-Czechoslovak relations are, in essence, relations of friendship and cooperation. They are deep, firm, mutually beneficial, and based on common principles that safeguard their continued development, progress, and effectiveness.

The summit-level meetings have given further impetus to these relations, increased their vitality, and deepened the friendship between our peoples. By this, I am referring to my two visits to Czechoslovakia in September 1975 and October 1985, and President Gustav Husak's visit to Damascus in May 1979. I recall with delight my two visits to your country, the warm reception accorded to us, and your people's sincere amity and feelings toward us. With the same delight I recall President Gustav Husak's visit to Damascus, which gave us the opportunity to express to him and to the Czechoslovak people our friendship and amity.

Among the fruits of our second visit to your country was the Syrian-Czechoslovak friendship and cooperation treaty, which provided a strong bases for relations between our two countries. We can feel the results in the promotion of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPCZ and between our governments and the popular organizations in our country.

In Syria, there are many examples of the fruitful cooperation between our countries. We can see this in the industrial installations. Czechoslovakia's cooperation has greatly helped establish these installations. Economic exchange between the two countries has increased. Syria and Czecnoslovakia still have ahead of them wide prospects for further progress in this exchange for the mutual benefit and interest of both countries.

Esteemed comrade, your current visit is a good opportunity to entrench and promote cooperation, bolster relations between our countries on all levels, and to exchange opinions on international and regional situations of interest to our countries and which can affect world peace and the future of mankind. While we, in Syria, sincerely wish you further achievements in your country, and further successes in your peaceful approach and in your defense of peoples' rights, we also express our appreciation for your stands in support of our just struggle against the aggressive and expansionist imperialist-Israeli schemes aimed at imposing hegemony on our region.

Czechoslovakia's principled stands and its policy, which is based on faith in peace and peoples' rights, have strengthened its position within the socialist bloc and on international and European levels. Your faith in the peoples' right to struggle against aggression and for achieving their freedom and right to self-determination undoubtedly springs from the principles of your party and rich militant heritage.

We were deeply touched when we visited the museum which was built to immortalize Lidice, which was wiped out by the Nazis in Czechoslovakia. This museum is a witness to the pains your people have suffered at the hands of the Nazis and an example of your people's sacrifices in confronting the Nazi occupation. We immediately recalled what was done against the Syrian city of Al-Qunaytirah at the hands of the new Israeli Nazis. We should here mention the existing relations of friendship between Lidice and Al-Qunaytirah.

During the past tens of years, the Israelis perpetrated tens of massacres in the Arab cities and villages in Palestine and in the neighboring Arab countries.

Peace is a demand for mankind. It is a goal which peoples all over the world fight for. Being part of this world, our peoples desire and endeavor for this peace. Undoubtedly, it is a noble and great hope to see a world free of wars and over which the banners of peace fly in all of its regions.

Marching on this path requires the demolition of expansionist theories and toppling invasion ideas. For this purpose, the broadest efforts in the international arena must be massed because, unless these expansionist ideas and theories are weaken and vanish, factors of war will remain in existence because those whose rights are threatened and who are faced with dangers will have to defend themselves no matter how [great] the pains and how difficult the consequences are, because life and mankind constitute a just and brave stand.

Syria wants a strong and just peace to exist in this region—a peace that will restore rights and insure a future free of expansion and aggression. Since peace is not one-sided, for it to be achieved all of its parties must believe in it, common concepts of peace must be established, and these must be standardized on the ground. We cannot say this has been achieved and we have nothing at hand to make us believe it is about to be achieved.

Syria wants to regain the occupied territory and restore the Palestinian people's rights. It accepted an international conference as a course of action with the participation of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—or with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members.

While Syria accepts the idea of an international conference as a working formula to achieve just peace, it refuses very clearly, and before any other party, for this conference to have the right to impose solutions because we are not prepared to concede to anyone our full right to achieve our rights.

However, at the same time, we do not want a conference that has no function or participants in a conference who have no function. This was our opinion in the past, and we expressed it. It remains so today.

We are confident that no matter how long it takes, forces of expansion and invasion have no future. Syria, and its Arab nation, is placing itself on the right path—the path of victory in its just struggle; its weapon being its masses, its just cause, and its friends' support and understanding of this cause.

Comrade Milos Jakes, I assert Syria's adherence to the friendship existing between it and CSSR. We will endeavor to entrench and develop it. We will also cooperate to achieve more solidarity and decisive stands by the peace- and progress-loving countries to achieve what peoples of the world aspire for in the peace and international political climate, which is a climate free of threats and aggression, the arms race, and the great unjustness in economic relations.

The peace initiatives of the socialist countries, foremost of which are those of the Soviet Union, for nuclear disarmament and establishment of healthy relations among countries of the world, and the trend toward establishing equivalent economic relations among countries of the world, enjoy our full support. They are in the interest of our peoples and the whole world.

Comrade Milos Jakes, esteemed visitors, I would like to express my confidence that your visit and the talks which we will hold will be fruitful and a new contribution to bolster cooperation between our two countries and friendship between our two peoples.

Finally, I wish you—esteemed comrade—good health and happiness. I wish your people continuous success and more achievements.

Jakes Gives Banquet Speech

JN1104102289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 10 Apr

["Text" of a speech delivered by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] and head of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front, at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 10 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed comrade president of the Republic and secretary general, esteemed comrades, dear Syrian friends: Allow me, in my own name and on behalf of the

Czechoslovak delegation, to express my great gratitude for the warm friendly welcome with which we were received in your beautiful country. At the same time, I would like to convey to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic the warm greetings of our country's people.

I would like to thank you personally, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, for the good hospitality. Also, I would like to express my joy because I meet you for the first time during my current post. I am also pleased that we studied together the level reached by Czechoslovak-Syrian relations, the horizons of their future development, and the current international conditions.

Ties of old friendship, based on mutual understanding and respect, link our two parties and countries. These ties are reinforced through the common struggle for peace and social progress.

Czechoslovakia has participated, and is still participating, in the ambitious plans to develop your country. These plans aim to build the strong economic foundations and consequently, the basic elements for the prosperity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the well-being of its people. Ties of friendship between the CPCZ and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party make effective contributions in this regard.

We greatly appreciate that in addition to the political dialogue on the high and highest levels, we have succeeded in laying the foundations for traditions of relations between our mass organizations and cooperation in the fields of culture, science, and state administration. There is effective activity through the [Syrian-CSSR] Friendship Society. The high level of mutual relations between the CSSR and the Syrian Arab Republic was reflected in signing the Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation in Prague in 1985.

I strongly believe that, on the basis of mutual interest, we will manage to solve the problems that emerged during the past few years in our economic relations to be able to dynamically develop this field of cooperation in the future.

Esteemed comrades, dear friends, we in our country nowadays are exerting efforts to bolster and complete socialist process through comprehensive social and economic reconstruction and by entrenching popular democracy. For this purpose, we aim to employ all material and spiritual resources of the society to expedite the country's social and economic development and raise the level of the people's standard of living.

The program for restructuring and spreading democracy was laid in details by the CPCZ Central Committee's seventh session and the subsequent sessions based on the resolutions of its 17th conference.

The revolutionary changes taking place in the Soviet Union were, and still are, a source for learning and aspiration. We also take the experience of other socialist countries into account. The CPCZ's 18th conference, which will be held in May of next year—that is 1 year before its regular date—will be able to adopt important resolutions pertaining to developing and speeding up the reform process.

Our Communist Party and the socialist party, in cooperation with all realistic, progressive, and peace-loving countries throughout the world, continue to pursue an effective foreign policy with the aim of contributing toward improving the positive processes, which give hope to easing tension in international relations, ending the arms race, achieving disarmament—particularly nuclear disarmament, and solving regional conflicts.

We welcome dialogue between the USSR and the United States, which bore its first fruits in the field of disarmament. We support the Soviet Union's proposals on disarmament. We also support all what we call the new political thinking in international relations.

As a European state, Czechoslovakia has presented several initiatives, whose achievement can help spread confidence among European states and can help in the general process of disarmament. We have welcomed the results of the Vienna conference. We want to effectively contribute to talks on disarmament and to measures to reinforce confidence and security in Europe.

Our interest is not only confined to Europe, but we also follow developments in regions suffering from regional conflicts, which, due to lack of good intentions to settle them, could become a serious threat to world peace.

In the past few days I visited Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos and saw for myself the problems related to the so-called Cambodian issue. However, I have also seen the organized and sincere efforts of our Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Lao friends to reach a political solution to these problems. They have our full support in this regard.

And now, we have been given the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with a country whose people can be proud of the history and present of their country. At the same time, this country is assuming its responsibility toward one of the longest and most serious regional conflicts.

On this occasion, I would like to express our people's full solidarity with the Syrian people's struggle and all the Arab peoples against the expansion and aggression of the ruling circles in Israel and for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. I also would like to express my appreciation for the Syrian Arab Republic's efforts to settle the conflict.

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'Closed M eeting' Held

JN1104133589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Comrade Milos Jakes, secretary general of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, resumed the talks they started yesterday with a second closed meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1100 today.

Paper Says CSSR 'Strong Basic Ally'

JN1004072089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 10 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Relations Between Damascus and Prague—Mutual Confidence and Permanent Friendship," TISHRIN says: At the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad, Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, will visit the country today.

While receiving its great guest, Comrade Jakes, Damascus reiterates the importance of strong and constructive relations between Syria and the CSSR, particularly on the economic, trade, and industry levels. Damascus also reiterates the importance of reinforcing CSSR support for Arab rights and underlining its firm stand on the side of the Syrian Arab people's struggle and the Arabs' just cause.

TISHRIN adds: In light of this, Syria considers the CSSR a strong, basic ally of the Arab struggle on the international and world public opinion levels in the battle of confrontation against the plots and challenges to which our Arab nation is being exposed as a result of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Defends Lebanon Policy

PM0704102589 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
24 Mar 89 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report: "Al-Shar': "My Talks With French Officials Positive"]

[Excerpts] Paris, SANA correspondent—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday held a press conference at 10:30 am at the Arab Syrian Cultural Center in Paris, which was attended by a large number of Arab, French, and international news agencies and press reporters. [passage omitted]

Conference events proceeded as follows: At the beginning of his press conference, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: My visit to France and meetings with French officials in Paris, foremost among them, President Francois Mitterrand, have been positive. They were held in a friendly atmosphere. On the Syrian delegation's behalf, I personally express our complete satisfaction with the results of the talks. We discussed several international and regional issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the prospects for a settlement in the Middle East region.

We also discussed the situation in Lebanon, the best means of easing the tense atmosphere there, and the best ways of realizing national reconciliation in Lebanon. Furthermore, we discussed bilateral relations and the prospects of developing and expanding them in the various fields of both economic and cultural ties. [passage omitted]

Asked why Syrians are allowed to do what Lebanese are not—when there is an agreement with the Americans that elections can be held before reforms are implemented and yet the opposite is happening, the matter becomes impossible—the foreign minister replied: That talk is inaccurate. It is not Syria that decides for the Lebanese or any other country.

Syria is in Lebanon to help the Lebanese overcome those difficulties and fill the deep gulf between them, which has resulted from the nature of the Lebanese political structure. The great majority of the Lebanese people have realized, after a long conflict and a bloody civil war, that a solution can only be achieved by establishing equality among the Lebanese. And equality among the Lebanese can only be achieved after fundamental and deep reforms are made in the system.

As for the issue of elections and names, certainly that is a Lebanese matter. We will not interfere in it at all. Media reports that Syria has nominated so and so are contrary to reality.

It was the political leaders in the eastern area [of Beirut] who asked the Americans to convey certain names to Syria and discuss the matter with it, not vice versa. It was they, not the Syrians, who introduced the names. But because there is another group in the eastern area that does not want a solution for Lebanon, they went back on what they had told the Americans. Syria did not interfere in that matter. True, we have our own view of what is happening, but that view is acceptable to the great majority of the Lebanese people. [passage omitted]

A U.S. reporter asked Al-Shar': Earlier this week, some U.S. officials said that the U.S. aircraft was blown up with one state's help, and when they were asked which state was intended, several states were mentioned, including Syria. What is your reply to that accusation?

The foreign minister said: That is a false accusation. In fact, some reporters, regrettably, do not respect the importance of their mission and release allegations from various sources before they ascertain the truth.

On several occasions, we in Syria have declared our rejection of terrorism and condemnation of state terrorism.

He added: We have made headway in fighting terrorism within the framework of international efforts, namely by calling for an international conference on combating terrorism. And when we in Syria condemn terrorism, we do so not to appease someone, but proceeding from our conviction and principles. On that basis, we called for convening an international conference to define terrorism and differentiate between it and the peoples' legitimate struggle.

Asked to comment on the statement issued by the European foreign ministers in Brussels, which calls on all non-Lebanese forces to withdraw from Lebanon, the foreign minister said: The Syrian presence in Lebanon is not a foreign presence. We and Lebanon are one people and belong to one nation. The Syrian presence in Lebanon is there because Syria was called to Lebanon for help, not because of Syrian ambitions or interference at all. The call was sent by the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese president at the time; also by the great majority of the Lebanese people. I can also say that had it not been for Syria's intervention, its response to that call, and its constant help for Lebanon, Lebanon would not have remained on the map until now. This is because no other state has helped Lebanon as much as Syria has done.

Al-Shar' was asked: What concessions has the Palestinian leadership made to Israel, and do you believe in the possibility of a military solution with Israel in the future if political efforts and the international conference fail?

The foreign minister said: I do not want to get into the details of the matter concerning the PLO leader. Everyone working in politics and the media knows what concessions have been made.

Second, it is Israel that always turns to the military option, but, regrettably, some Arabs believe the opposite to be the case. It is Israel that believes in the military solution, which is why it does not want to withdraw from the occupied territories or recognize the Palestinian people's national rights, relying on its military power.

The Arab side has offered a solution. It has offered all it can to facilitate the convening of the international conference, but it is Israel alone that rejects that.

On what power does Israel rely in rejecting that? It is the military power, not political, economic, or informational power. But we in Syria say that the military option that Israel is imposing on the region and the world a whole must prompt us to be strong enough to defend ourselves, and so that our weakness will not tempt Israel to embark on further expansion and aggression in the region.

Asked his opinion of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, the foreign minister said: We welcome any unionist step or grouping whose objective is achieving Arab unity. When the GCC was established, Syria supported it. And when there was talk during the Algiers summit about the possibility of establishing an Arab Maghreb union, President Hafiz al-Asad supported the idea during his meetings with the Arab leaders concerned.

As for the Arab Cooperation Council established recently but not announced through the media until the official announcement, I would like to say that Syria has cordial and good relations with two states from that grouping, namely, Jordan and the YAR. As for relations with Egypt, they are not strained, especially as Syria sees relations with Egypt not only as government relations, but as relations with the people of an Arab state, with which cooperation throughout the ages has always been a source of security and stability in the region.

He added that when Syria differs with Egypt, security in the region falters, and that was what happened after the Camp David accords were signed and after Egypt's withdrawal from the Arab ranks confronting Israel.

The relationship between Syria and Egypt is beyond the question of resuming diplomatic relations. Thus, the relationship between Syria and Egypt is much deeper than establishing diplomatic relations.

As for Iraq, our relations were not good before the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and still are not good since its establishment. So, there is nothing

new that the establishment of that council can add or take away with regard to Syria. Anyhow, we wish everyone success, despite the questions raised in the region about that grouping.

The minister added: Syria's absence from these Arab groupings gives us a distinctive status, rather than isolates us, as some media services are trying to portray the situation. President Hafiz al-Asad's visits to a number of fraternal states in the Arab Maghreb have confirmed this fact, and we sensed greater interest than ever before on the part of the Maghreb union states in strengthening their relations with Syria.

We also sense that our brothers in the GCC are interested in strengthening and enhancing their relations with Syria and making them better than they have been over the past few years. Syria's main concern is working to unite the Arabs under one banner in order to confront the crucial challenges, as expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad in his historic speech on the 26th anniversary of the 8 March revolution. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH Cited on Criticism of French Stand

JN1004130489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 10 Apr (SANA)—In a comment today under the headline "The Hands of the Clock Do Not Go Back," the newspaper AL-BA'TH wonders: Doesn't the French Government realize that history will not repeat itself in Lebanon and that the age of governorship, feudalism, tribalism, and sedition incited by the colonialists wherever they landed, will not come back?

The paper urges the French Government at least to recall the lesson of the NATO and multinational concentrations near Beirut, which is being destroyed by General 'Awn.

The paper explains that the demagogy of isolationists throughout the years of the ordeal could not change the course of the conflict. The paper says that this course has clearly developed in the Lebanese arena into a factional trend which directly deals with the Zionist enemy on the one hand and the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people who confronted the Zionized minority, resisted the Zionist onslaught, and faithfully and confidently defended their Arabism and the Arabism of their homeland on the other.

The paper affirms that the trend of the isolationist minority has lost all the battles it ignited at the expense of innocent citizens. Therefore, it eventually resorted to a desperate battle through which it will try to make history repeat itself by proposing internationalization and relying on the loving mother, France.

SANA Cites Paper on Shamir Visit, U.S. Role

JN0804122889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 8 Apr (SANA)—In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to the United States and the visits results so far give initial frustrating indications about the possibility of a positive and constructive role by Washington in the Middle East.

The paper adds: We would like to hope that the Bush administration will not follow the track of the previous administrations, which were completely biased toward Israel against the Arabs, especially as this track has created real problems for the United States in the Middle East, obstructed the establishment of peace, and exacerbated the danger of wars and tragedies in this sensitive area of the world.

The paper continues: To recall a fact proved by events in this region, we say that the course of capitulation cannot prevail in the Arab homeland. Any wagering on it is futile, dangerous, and has no chance of surviving.

AL-THWARAH concludes: If the U.S. Administration is honestly seeking peace in the area, it should know that supporting Israeli aggression and expansion did not and will not lead to peace at all. If President Bush plans for a positive role for his country in the Middle East, this will not be by panting behind the Israeli policy and denying basic Arab rights, but by supporting justice, truth, and a genuine peace that ends the occupation and aggression, and provides the right to a secure and independent life for millions of the Palestinian refugees and displaced.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Protest on Border Incidents Rejected

LD1004163189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Foreign Ministry, where the following points were conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Section:

Regarding the Pakistani Government's claim that on 6 April an Afghan Scud missile fell on a border post near Towr Kham in Pakistan, as a result of which state and public buildings were severly damaged, it is being said that the Afghan Armed Forces only attack Afghan territory, organize combat operations against residential areas and security posts of the cities, and violate the cease-fire.

The crushing blows of the Afghan Armed Forces are also targeted on those armed extremists groups who, with support and interference from the Pakistani military, are continuing the war on the territory of Afghanistan. No missile fired from Afghan territory has landed on the other side of the border.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry resorts to such baseless accusations in order to cover up its flagrant military interference and aggression in the battles in Jalalabad city and other Afghan border provinces on the eve of the UN Security Council meeting and to distract the opinion of the world public and the people of Pakistan from the truth of the direct interference on the part of the Pakistani Army and military intelligence. After a thorough investigation, the Republic of Afghanistan considers these claims by the Pakistan Government far from the truth and strongly rejects them.

Missile Allegation Rebutted

LD1004220489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Pakistan Government has announced that it has sustained material loss as a result of a Scud missile fired by the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces. Now we will explain the facts involved in the Pakistan Government's allegation.

It is obvious to the world that Western powers, especially the United States, have resorted to various pretexts to destabilize the regional situation and to maintain their vital interests in South Asia. For example, they have turned Pakistan into a modern arms and war equipment arsenal, and some of these weapons, including long and medium range rockets, have been given to the Afghan extremists.

Moreover, differences among the leaders of the alliance of seven based in Peshawar have been increasing over obtaining various privileges from their supporters in the West and countries like Saudi Arabia, to the extent th they are fighting among themselves and continue to uthat the most powerful weapons they have received fro use their supporters. The mass media in Western countrfrom can not hide the intensified inter-necine fighting and tries differences between extremist leaders and their relati the groups and have published a number of detailed repoated on these issues. orts

In addition, the defeat of the opposition forces in Jalalabad and the unlimited interference by Pakistan's mala-itary intelligence, which only intensified the fighting, lmil-some members of the groups and their commanders, led concede defeat in view of their heavy losses and to gis to up fighting. This has intensified their differencgive increased confrontation among these groups, and led ices, fighting between them. d to

Therefore, it is possible that the rocket which landed in t soil of Pakistan could have been fired by one of the grou the against another, because all these groups have modoups arms. To cover up its interference in the internal affairslern the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan alleges that the Scrs of rocket was fired by the Republic of Afghanistan. Tlcud comes at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan hThis proposed a UN Security Council session on Pakistar has interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. an's

Moreover, Pakistan's accusations are an only excu being put forward during the UN discussion cuse Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's intern on affairs—something for its defense, even if falsified. Hornal ever, Pakistan should not forget that it cannot remaow-safe forever while the war continues and expands asain continues to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs it Afghanistan has the right to use all facilities at its. disposal in order to disrupt the invasion and, in t its future, to defend its independence, territorial integri the and sovereignty. rity,

Beirut Paper Says Arab Volunteers Assist Rebels

NC1004085889 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Mar 89 p 10

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["Very Secret"—AL-SHIRA' headline]

[Text] Some 1,000 Arab volunteers are currently fighti with the mujahidin forces in Afghanistan against ting Kabul Communist government. They include a numbthe of Lebanese, Palestinians, Egyptians, Sudanese, and Jber danians stationed in the camps of the mujahidin who aor-supported by Pakistan and Iran. are

About 60 Arab volunteers have so far been martyrec Their bodies could not be returned to their countries ed. s.

Shi'ite Group Denies Meeting With Kabul Regime

LD1004144189 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Mashhad, April 10, IRNA—Claims that Afghan Shi'ite groups had agreed to negotiate with the Kabul regime was categorically denied by the Afghan mujahidin here Monday.

"Negotiations with the Kabul regime means suicide of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan," said a member of the Harakat-e Enqilab-e Eslami (Islamic Revolution Movement).

Hojjat ol-Eslam Modarresi noted that such absurd claims indicate the acute pressure the Marxist regime is under, as a result of military operations launched by Shi'ite groups.

"We might enter into open negotiations with the Soviet Union to get war reparations provided all Shi'ite and Sunni groups agree," he told a press conference.

Over 35 percent Afghan Muslims hold Shi'ite beliefs, and the Persian speaking Hazaras which inhabit the central mountainous areas form the largest ethnic concentration after the Pashtuns.

The Afghan Shi'ite leadership is based in Iran, and besides the Hazaras, the million odd urbanised Kizilbash as well as certain other minority groups are also Shi'ite.

At the press conference, a second official of the movement said that the Soviet installed regime would have long been toppled if mujahidin had tried to liberate Kabul instead of Jalalabad.

"Plans to attack Kabul have been drawn up and efforts are underway to unite all mojahedin groups for delivering the coup de grace," added Ahmadi [name as received].

AFP: Air Force Foils Jalalabad Airport Attack

BK1004161589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 10 (AFP)—The Afghan Air Force beat back Monday a concerted mujahidin attack on the airport of the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad, military sources said.

The sources said the attack began late Sunday and continued until Monday. Concentrated bombing by Afghan jets stopped the attacks and the mujahidin were forced to flee, the sources said.

(In Islamabad, resistance sources said that a Scud missile fired from Kabul against mujahidin positions fell in a populated area of Jalalabad, causing heavy losses and destruction.)

A government spokesman in Kabul said "the enemy (rebels) tried to retake the positions they had lost (earlier) in the battle." He added that 11 civilians had been killed and 17 injured in a rebel barrage of 18,000 rocket, mortar and heavy weapons rounds that hit the city and surrounding security posts.

"They had no success," the spokesman said. He put government Army casualties at three killed and eight wounded and said 40 shops were destroyed in the past 24 hours along with two government buildings and a mosque.

Mujahidin casualties were put at 112 killed. The government said two of the dead were identified as a mujahidin group leader and a Saudi Arabian advisor.

Mujahidin rebels based in neighboring Pakistan, some 75 kilometres (46 miled) from Jalalabad, launched an attack on the city on March 5, 18 days after the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, in an effort to establish a seat for their interim government.

The mujahidin last weekend widened their attacks to include the eastern cities of Khowst and Gazni.

The government spokesman said Monday that the rebels continued to use long-range rocket and heavy weapons fire against Khowst for the second straight day, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Jalalabad Fighting Described

BK1104022789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce fighting continues between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops around Jalalabad and it is reported that the mujahidin have occupied three more military posts south of the city. The reports note the yesterday's fierce fighting for control of the city.

A PRAVDA correspondent reports from the besieged city that the mujahidin are continuously firing rockets on the city, which has completely paralyzed economic activities. The correspondent says the authorities have imposed a 24-hour curfew due to the mujahidin's shelling. The movement of food convoys has come to a standstill because only helicopters can now land at the airport.

The Kabul regime admits that the mujahidin are continuing their attacks on the large cities of Qandahar and Khowst.

Diplomatic sources say that thousands of Kabul citizens have fled the capital to other provincial cities and neighboring countries in fear of the mujahidin attacks.

'Extremists' Violate Ramadan Cease-Fire

LD1004172589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The cease-fire in honor of the sacred month of Ramadan was violated again yesterday by armed extremists backed by Pakistan in Nangarhar, Paktia, Faryab, Herat, Qandahar, and Parwan Provinces, and in Khowst District.

An Armed Forces spokesman informed the BAKHTAR military section that joint Pakistani forces and associated groups yesterday fired more than 18,000 missiles and artillery shells from various directions onto the residential areas of Jalalabad city and security posts. At the same time, the joint enemy forces have resorted to extensive attacks on military posts from various directions. The enemy attacks were supported by artillery and long-range fire from the 18th and 11th Divisions of the Pakistani Army.

The spokesman adds that the enemy attacks were mostly on the residential areas of Jalalabad city. As a result of these criminal actions by Pakistani forces and extremists groups they support, 11 people were martyred and 17 were injured. Most of the dead and injured are women and children. Some 40 shops, 2 public establishments, and 1 mosque were destroyed. Three Armed Forces personnel were martyred and another eight were injured.

As a result of a retaliatory attack by the Afghan Armed Forces, 112 people from the joint Pakistani forces and associated groups were killed and 70 were injured. Among the dead are a Saudi adviser called Ahmad and a ringleader of the groups attached to Pakistan, Haji Jafar. Their bodies and identity cards were recovered by the Armed Forces. In addition 11 mortars, 4 recoilless guns, 47 rocket launchers, 6 guns, 12 systems for launching [word indistinct], and around 30 light weapons were destroyed.

The joint enemy forces whose supplies are carried by the 11th and 18th Divisions of the Pakistani Army yesterday tried to recapture their lost positions. However, as a result of coordinated defensive operations by the joint forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, their attacks were foiled and they were pushed back.

The source adds that the extremists backed by Pakistan fired at the residential areas of Meymaneh city and Herat city. As a result of this crime by the extremists, 1 woman was martyred in Meymaneh city and 15 children were injured. An elderly person was martyred and eight others, including four children, were injured in Herat city.

Heavy weapons fire by the armed groups attached to Pakistan which took place in Khowst District and areas of Paktia Province caused no loss of life. As a result of a retaliatory attack by Afghan forces, eight enemies were killed and another five were injured.

The source adds that, despite heavy weapons fire by the groups attached to Pakistan which took place in some parts of Qandahar Province, there was no loss of life. However, as a result of retaliatory attacks and mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, 17 people were killed, including Din Muhammad, a ringleader of Gulbuddin's extremist group. And five of their rocket systems, three mortars, two recoilless guns, and two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, together with a number of trenches were destroyed. In addition, 74 mortars and around 1,000 DShK shells were seized by the Armed Forces.

The brave Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows in some parts of Lowgar Province, crushing 200 cease-fire violators and armed extremists, including two Saudi mercenaries, and destroyed 16 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition sent from Pakistan for the continuation of war and fratricide on Afghan territory. The cease-fire was observed in other parts of the country.

Violations Notices Submitted to UN Mission

Nos 383-385

LD0704180789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Violations Notices Nos 383, 384, and 385 of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan about Pakistan's flagrant violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in Kabul.

The memoranda provide accurate information to the United Nations about a total of 35 Pakistani violations of the provisions of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords. The violations include the dispatch of convoys carrying various types of weapons and ammunition, the dispatch of Pakistani military advisers and militias into the Republic of Afghanistan, and the provision of military training camps and centers to train Afghan extremists in Pakistan.

These memoranda request that UNGOMAP assess the violations mentioned in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords.

Nos 386-388

LD0804182489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The Afghanistan Foreign Ministry's coordination office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this afternoon Notes Nos 386, 387, and 388 on Pakistan's flagrant violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

In Memorandum 386, having pointed out the fact that the number of training centers and military camps to train Afghan extremists in Pakistan's territory has recently increased. Accurate information has also been given about the military training camp of Wana, located 20 km east of Wana and the camp of Ghulam Khan village located 16 km north of Miram Shah, where in both camps the extremists elements attached to the groups of Gulbuddin and Khalis are being trained by U.S. and Pakistani military instructors.

In Memoranda 387 and 388 detailed information has been given about the fact that recently the Pakistani military authorities have collected and armed hundreds of Afghan emigrants who live in that country—mostly youths and youngsters—by force and intimidation, completely ignoring their families' objections and dissatisfaction. They are sending them to Afghanistan to participate in armed antistate activities.

It has been added that a few days ago the Pakistan police wanted to call up a number of Afghan youths for this purpose from (Surab Kot) camp in Karachi and as a result of the Afghan resistance by Afghan emigrants and clashes that took place between them and police, 15 emigrants were injured and sent to (Shahid Abas) hospital.

Also as a result of another clash that took place in this connection between Pakistani military men and Afghan emigrants in the armed camp of Bagh, 15 emigrants were martyred and 36 were injured. A number were jailed.

In the memoranda it has been requested that the UN delegation to assess these violations by Pakistan as soon as possible in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords.

Nos 389-391

LD0904190489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Notes Nos 389-391 of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistan's flagrant violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over to the UN Good Office Mission in Kabul today.

The notes list 35 violations of the provisions of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords, which mainly covers the increasing assistance of the Pakistani military authorities to Afghan armed extremists.

In the Foreign Affairs Ministry memoranda having given accurate information about the mentioned cases of violations, it has been requested from the UN Good Office Mission to assess these violations in accordance with Article 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords.

Nos 392-394

LD1104090589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan this morning submitted Notes 392, 393, and 394 on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords to the UN Good Office Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in Kabul.

The Foreign Ministry memoranda cite a total of 11 violations by Pakistan with accurate information, including the location and dates of the incidents. The violations primarily concern the dispatch of convoys of arms and ammunition to Afghan territory, the supply of deadly weapons to the armed extremists for the continuation of bloodshed and fratricide, the existence in Pakistan of military training camps for the extremist groups, the dispatch of Pakistani militias to join with the extremists in destructive activities and various types of violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords.

The UN delegation has been asked to assess the violations mentioned in Foreign Ministry memoranda in accordance with the Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and to inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the envoy of the UN secretary general about their findings.

It is worth mentioning that since the signing of the Geneva accords a total of 3,290 violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan, cited in 394 memoranda submitted by the Foreign Ministry, have been handed over to UNGOMAP for assessment.

Bangladesh

Hikmatyar, Mujahidin Delegation Depart 10 Apr

BK1004160989 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The five-member Afghan mujahidin delegation led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar left Dhaka today at the end of a 2-day visit to Bangladesh.

Mr Hikmatyar called on President Ershad and Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud to inform them of the latest situation in Afghanistan. The Afghan delegation is on a visit to several Asian countries to seek the recognition of the mujahidin government.

Minorities Rally Against Bill on State Religion

BK0604162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, thousands of people of the minority community have demanded immediate abrogation of the 8th Amendment of the Constitution, making Islam as the state religion. They were participating in the

national rally organized by I
Christian Oikya Parishad in D
unanimously a seven-point
demands include restoration
desh, equal employment and
minorities, and repeal of the

y Bangladesh Hindu Board-
n Dhaka today. They adopted
t charter of demands. The
n of secular status of Bangla-
nd business opportunity to
e Enemy Property Act.

Indi dia

Gandhi Announces Inquiry o on Thakkar Report Leak

*BK1004130389 Delhi Domesti estic Service in English
1230 GMT 10 Apr 89*

[Text] The prime minister an announced in the Lok Sabha today that the government w will institute an inquiry to determine who leaked the Thal akkar Commission report on the assassination of Mrs Indira ra Gandhi. In an emotionally charged hour-long interventio ion in the discussion on the Thakker Commission report, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that whoever leaked the report vio violated the oath of secrecy, broke the trust reposed in him m, and flouted the will of the House. He added that the leak ak has not come from us.

The prime minister came do own heavily on the opposition and said that even those e known for their patriotism are joining the marionettes o of manipulated journalism. He said it is distressing to see these political parties drifting along in the same boa oat, which he said, is full of leaks. Mr Gandhi recalled that at the parts of the report had reached the press 3 years ago go but there were no reper cussions at that time. Is there a deeper significance to the leaks now, he asked.

Speaking on Punjab, the pri rime minister stressed the government's determination to bring the terrorists on their knees and restore peac ace and tranquillity in the state. He also declared that the country will never be allowed to be divided again. He asserted that the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of th the nation will be preserved at all costs.

Earlier, raising several points of order, Mr Dinesh Goswami, AJP [Asom Gana Par rishad], Mr Jaipal Reddy, Janata, and other opposition n members demanded that the government should table e the report of the special investigation team. They also o wanted the records of the commission to be placed in the speaker's chamber for perusal by the opposition le eaders. Mr Goswami also sought to move an amendme ent to the home minister's resolution in this regard.

The deputy speaker, Mr Than mbi Durai, who was in the chair, overruled the objections s of the opposition and said that as per the earlier ruling of the speaker, the discussion can be on what has been tabled by the government. This did not satisfy most of f the opposition and they staged a noisy walk out.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, while moving the resolution, recalled the backgr round to the setting up of the Thakkar Commission an nd said the investigations have vindicated the belief that there was larger conspiracy behind the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. Mr Buta Singh said the Special Investigation Team—SIT—has filed a charge sheet before the chief metropolitan magistrate of Delhi early this month. He said the SIT has also thoroughly investigated the matter pertaining to Mr R.K. Dhawan, in the context of his suspected complicity in the conspiracy.

It has come to the conclusion that such suspicion has no basis and there is no ground to indicate that Mr Dhawan was, in any way, involved in the crime or the conspiracy leading to it.

Indira Assassination Haunts National Politics

BK0804122089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 8 Apr 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, April 8 (AFP)—The spectre of murdered Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has returned to haunt India as the country prepares for general elections in December.

Unexpected disclosures Friday that Mrs. Gandhi's murder was part of a larger conspiracy to destabilise India has given Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party a populist issue to sidestep allegations that his administration accepted kickbacks in defence deals, observers said.

But a judge's implication of Mrs. Gandhi's closest aide in her 1984 assassination by two Sikh bodyguards has also given the opposition an advantage in traditional Congress (I) strongholds, the observers said.

"Mrs. Gandhi's assassination would definitely be the common man's question during elections. Other issues are of no consequence," a Congress (I) parliamentarian said on condition of anonymity. "If not handled right, (the assassination) could lead to political losses for us," he said.

A police Special Investigations Team (SIT) on Friday charged four Sikhs with criminal conspiracy in the murder of Mrs. Gandhi, trying to destabilise India, waging war against the government, sedition, murder and attempt to murder.

The SIT said Mrs. Gandhi's murder was part of a grand design which included blowing up Parliament, hijackings, abduction of the children of leaders, and sowing dissatisfaction in the security forces.

The disclosures evoked instant reaction from Mr. Gandhi, Mrs. Gandhi's son, who said his government would not surrender to the divisive forces which planned Mrs. Gandhi's assassination. He accused the opposition of indirectly supporting the assassins, newspapers reported.

"My mother did not flee the field till shedding the last drop of her blood. I shall not leave the people, though two attempts had already been made on my life, " Mr. Gandhi said Friday.

Speaking to reporters in Shantiniketan, West Bengal State, the prime minister said he would soon present evidence that his mother's assassination was part of a larger conspiracy to destabilise the country. "Parliament will know this in a few days' time," he said.

THE HINDU, a respected newspaper, said "the political debate has received this queer, sudden twist as a result of the Thakkar (judicial) Commission Report, which rocked Parliament, several state assemblies and almost monopolised public attention." "The political parties on both sides of the fence will see to it that issues thrown up are not forgotten," the daily said.

It added that opposition leaders have found a lot of ammunition in the report last month by Supreme Court Judge M.P. Thakkar, which implicated Mrs. Gandhi's aide Rajindra Kumar Dhawan as the main suspect in the assassination.

But the assassination case returned to media attention when Mr. Thakkar's findings sparked a nationwide furor after the INDIAN EXPRESS published excerpts of it on March 14.

Mr. Gandhi and his Congress (I) Party were swept to power two months after his mother's assassination and subsequent anti-Sikh riots which left more than 3,000 dead across the country.

The fresh police charges come three months after the government hanged two Sikhs, Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh, who were found guity of involvement in Mrs. Gandhi's assassination.

The pro-Congress (I) NATIONAL HERALD said: "Already, with the general elections only some months away, we see a glimpse of the kind of campaigning that lies ahead."

"There are signs of opposition groups getting desperate," the HERALD said, adding that the opposition should unite before the polls.

Seven opposition groups, including the three-party Janata Dal (People's Party) Alliance and three regional parties, last year launched the National Front under Vishwanath Pratap Singh, a former friend of Mr. Gandhi.

Observers said Mrs. Gandhi's murder is so far the only likely weapon the front can use effectively in its electoral battle against the 103-year-old Congress Party.

Mrs. Gandhi was gunned down by Satwant Singh and Beant Singh, members of her security guard, at her residence here on October 31, 1984. Beant Singh was immediately shot dead by commandos, but Satwant Singh survived after receiving gunshot wounds. Satwant Singh was convicted for pulling the trigger and Kehar Singh, a minor functionary in a government department, of conspiring to kill Mrs. Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi sacked Mr. Dhawan after his mother's slaying but unexpectedly reinstated him in February as an officer in the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Mr. Dhawan has been absolved of involvement in the murder by the police investigation team, which was established to follow up Mr. Thakkar's judicial inquiry.

Defense Minister Voices Concern Over Arms Race

BK1104125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has expressed concern at the new phase in the arms race in the region. He said the prime minister's recent visits to China and Pakistan have strengthened the prospects of peace in the region. However, the continued arming of Pakistan, which is significant and disturbing, has to be taken note of. Mr Pant was addressing the Air Force commanders conference in New Delhi today.

Further on Remarks

BK1104113289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 11 (AFP)—Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant warned Tuesday of "disturbing" signs of a new arms race in Asia and urged the Indian Air Force to maintain vigilant. [sentence as received] Mr. Pant said there were "significant and disturbing signs of a new phase in the arms race in the region."

Addressing an annual conference of Air Force commanders, the defence minister said India should watch Pakistan's growing arsenals.

Mr. Pant's warning came less than a week after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Islamabad was a screw-turn away from making a nuclear bomb and followed the successful testing of a surface-to-surface missile by Pakistan.

The defence minister said the Indian Air Force should not ignore the threat of a new arms race in the region although Mr. Gandhi's visits last year to China and Pakistan had strengthened prospects for regional peace.

Mr. Gandhi's visits to China, the first by an Indian premier in 34 years, and Pakistan in December 1988 have been seen as signalling a thaw in New Delhi's often stormy relations with the two neighbours.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence in 1947. India also fought a brief border war with China in 1962 over a dispute that still persists.

Bhutto's Special Envoy Meets Narasimha Rao 10 Apr
BK1004144989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, the special envoy of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, arrived in New Delhi today. Mr Ahsan, who is the interior minister, has brought a letter to Mr Rajiv Gandhi from Ms Bhutto.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the special envoy held discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, soon after his arrival. Mr Ahsan is due to meet the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the prime minister, Mr Gandhi.

Minister on Expulsion of Bangladesh Refugees
BK1004081089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Deb, told the Lok Sabha today that about 80,000 foreigners have been expelled from Assam to Bangladesh up to January this year. He said these persons were pushed across the border in accordance with the commitment given by the Bangladesh Government in 1972 that all the refugees who crossed over to India after 25 March 1971 would be accepted back by Bangladesh.

The minister asserted that under the Assam accord, no Indian citizen is being harassed and the state government is also cooperating in this.

Answering supplementaries, Mr Deb said only the refugees identified by the tribunals of the Assam Government are to be deported from the country.

New High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Appointed
BK1004130889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Lakhan Lal Mehrotra has been appointed the new high commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Election Prospects Assessed
LD1104091189 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—The morning daily TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday editorialized on presidential elections scheduled for the summer.

It said in the light of the current political developments, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani appeared to be strongest candidate for the post. The paper added if Hashemi-Rafsanjani decides to run in the elections most probably he will win.

Another factor which increased his chances of victory in the elections is the statement of secretary of the Rohaniyun-e Mobarez [Combatant Clergy—breakaway group] Association Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi announcing Hashemi-Rafsanjani as its candidate, it said.

It is evident that the other political wing in the country, the Rohaniyat-e Mobarez [Combatant Clergy—original group] Association will also support Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidacy, it maintained.

From what Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said so far over the issue it is clear that he is trying to avoid creating unrealistic expectations among his supporters and avoid the assumption that he can find fast and hard solutions to the country's social, economic and political problems, it said.

Sorting out of these problems calls for proper strategies and policies, and said the paper adding that socio-economic development is among the top priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turning to performance of Hashemi-Rafsanjani over the last years, the paper said it is clear that he will not favour any of the existing political groupings and will maintain a neutral position towards the two views. "It seems he has his own particular views on matters of economic and political strategy which will not, probably be in full accordance with any particular (?persuasions)."

Interior Minister on Presidential Election Date
NC0804051289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The day on which the presidential elections will take place is to be announced during the next 2 weeks. This was stated by Interior Minister Mohtashemi at the end of his visit to Khuzestan Province in a news conference. He also said: The elections, which will take place with the cooperation of the Council of Guardians, will be held on a Friday or on an official holiday in Mordad [month beginning 23 July].

Referring to his visits to Abadan and Khorramshahr, he said: The Abadan Islamic Revolution Committee will soon be formed and begin its activities.

TEHRAN TIMES on Montazeri Resignation
NC1104102589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Montazeri's Resignation—Proof of Revolution's Islamic Nature"]

[Text] Iran was jolted by a very surprising piece of news on March 27, when the designated successor to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri announced his resignation from the post. He voiced his decision in a letter to Imam Khomeyni, who accepted his resignation at once.

To lead a revolution as magnanimous as that of the Islamic Iran, is of such a demanding nature that only a multi-dimensional man may handle it.

For a fact Ayatollah Montazeri has been known for decades for his vast knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence as well as a brilliant record of revolutionary activities. He spent many years in jail under the corrupt regime of the shah and was actually freed only in the very last months before the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Yet his weakness, and probably his biggest, was his credulity, which, at times, led him to trust all those who had something to tell him. This quality indeed deprived him of the needed care that is desirable in one who should lead the Islamic revolution.

It is a fact, a bitter one though, that the ayatollah's decisions were reportedly influenced by words from different quarters including the liberals, nationalists, those residing abroad and their letters, media propaganda and international bodies such as the Amnesty International.

Those in contact with him and in his office, it is reported, were mostly not trustworthy people and the ayatollah nevertheless believed in them with great trust. In his reply to the ayatollah's letter of resignation Imam Khomeyni too complained that he had time and again warned him to purge his office of such people. The imam in particular referred to a warning of his given to Ayatollah Montazeri following Mehdi Hashemi's case in 1987.

Also in his message to the Assembly of Experts (working to decide the future leadership of the revolution in 1983) the imam had warned the future leader, or, the leadership council, to be well aware of the hypocrites and enemies. "Corrupt doers", the message said, "and criminal elements, are more than any other groups or persons, busy preparing designs on you to create within the Islamic order a catastrophe through collusion with deviated persons who might be in your quarters donning an Islamic and revolutionary mask on their faces. Beware that such elements might slap Islam and the Islamic Republic in the face through you."

Given these explicit statements of the imam it might be inferred that the non-qualification of Ayatollah Montazeri to meet the qualities that make one capable of this immensely sensitive post has been well known to the leader of the revolution right from the beginning. As such Imam Khomeyni's belief in the ayatollah's weaknesses has been bolstered as further proof to this end surfaced in recent months.

The imam's acceptance of his resignation, therefore, signifies the fact that from the imam's view the leadership of Ayatollah Montazeri would not only not serve the revolution but would confront it with danger.

These developments, however, once again make it clear both to the friends and foes of the Islamic revolution that it is only the interests of the Islamic order that takes precedence over everything and everybody especially in the view of our uncompromising leader.

It should be noted that the imam, in his reply to Ayatollah Montazeri's letter referred to him as a "fruition of my life". Yet when it came for him to choose between the ayatollah and Islam and its future, the imam did not hesitate a single moment to make the right decision even if it meant the resignation of the ayatollah whom for a while was regarded as the "hope of the nation and the imam".

Now a decision will have to come on who is to succeed the imam. If no ready person is found then the Assembly of Experts will select prominent religious leaders who will then form a Council of Leadership to lead the nation collectively.

Jannati Thanks Khomeyni for Guidelines

LD0904104489 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in a cable to Imam Khomeyni Saturday thanked him for "the fatherly and constructive guidelines" to the IPO.

Ayatollah Jannati said the attention of the imam had encouraged the staff of the organization to better fulfil their duties.

He assured the Imam that the IPO, established with the approval of the imam, carried out its religious obligations and propagation both inside and outside the country "far from any factionalism and schism."

Ayatollah Jannati stressed that the organisation has based its activities on principles of the Islamic revolution and Office of the Religious Jurisprudence.

Khomeyni Orders Relief to Sistan Flood Victims

LD1104113789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] In the wake of flooding in the Sistan region Imam Khomeyni's office has announced that the imam of the ummah, after receiving the reports on the situation of flood victims, graciously expressed his concern at the tragic incident and its effects on the deprived and innocent people of Sistan. He asked Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, to visit the flood-stricken region personally to closely review the ways of assisting the flood victims. The imam of the ummah also instructed Mr Musavi-Ardabili to give financial assistance to the compatriots who have incurred losses in the floods, and to meet their requirements.

Navy Chief Comments on Past, Upcoming Exercises
NC0704121689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Mar 89 p 20

[Report by ETTELA'AT's "Political Service"]

[Text] Two ships of the Islamic Republic Navy returned to the homeland yesterday morning after having sailed 6,950 nautical miles in 54 days and after special sea and shore exercises in the ports and islands of the Indian Ocean.

The ships "Tonb" and "Bushehr" with professors and students of the Navy Cadet School on board, called at ports in Pakistan and Tanzania during their voyage.

Speaking to an ETTELA'AT correspondent on the telephone this morning, Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, described the outcome of the Iranian ships' two months' voyage in the Indian Ocean.

Pointing out that starting in the current [Iranian] year, Iran's naval units will have a more extensive presence in Persian Gulf waters, the Gulf of Oman, and the Indian Ocean, he said: The recent voyage of our ships proved that Islamic Republic's Navy is capable of sending its warships to the farthest points of the globe.

The Navy commander pointed out that the Navy's large ships and supply ships that took part in the naval exercises in the Indian Ocean successfully carried out the exercise of escorting commercial vessels and tankers and that they were able to carry out various sea and shore operations outside regional waters.

Commodore Malkezadegan said: The joint air, sea, and ground maneuvers of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces will take place in a vast area in early Ordibehesht 1368 [month beginning 21 April 1989].

In these exercises, which will extend from the Gulf of Oman to the northern Persian Gulf, boats, aircraft, heavy and light destroyers, supply and fueling units, hovercraft, divers' teams, and Navy frogmen will take part together with Air Force fighters, helicopters from the Army Air Corps, and airborne and parachute teams from the Ground Forces.

Iraq To Raze Kurdish Town of Qal'at Dizah
LD1004123289 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 10, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has told the inhabitants of Qal'at Dizah that they have "no alternative" but to leave their homes before the northern Iraqi Kurdish town is razed to the ground.

Last week Iraqi troop reinforcements were sent to surround the town as part of the regime's "scorched earth" policy to depopulate Kurdistan, and handed out leaflets to the 100,000 residents, warning that bulldozers would move in on April 25.

Ba'thist ruler Saddam Husayn has been carrying out a campaign of systematic genocide against Iraq's 4 million Kurdish community, that was intensified since last August's ceasefire in his eight year war against Islamic Iran.

Kurdish sources in London say that Friday prayer leader of Qal'at Dizah, Muhammad Delgai [name as received] made a personal plea to save the town or at least allow the inhabitants to choose their own locations for settlements, but that both were "flatly rejected."

The leaflet said that each family would be taken in an Army jeep or an equivalent space in a truck but did not specify a destination. According to the Kurdish sources, this unspecified destination is most likely to be desert regions near the border with Saudi Arabia, where camps have already been established for previous mass depopulations.

Qal'at Dizah is only 15 miles from the Iranian border and not far from Halabjah, where more than 5,000 Kurds were exterminated and 7,000 others maimed in chemical attacks by the regime in March 1988.

Hundreds of Kurdish villages are thought to have already been destroyed in the "scorched earth" programme, and over the year there have been reports of mass executions, tortures and disappearances of Kurds taken to camps in the south.

Environment Group To Clear Territorial Waters
LD0804153289 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The 8-nation Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) has entrusted member states the task of clearing their territorial waters of pollution and possibly mines.

Head of Iran's Environment Protection Organization Dr. Hadi Manafi back from the recent ROPME session in Kuwait, said today that members had inked a protocol which envisaged joint study to pull out sunken ships and other debris from the waterway.

ROPME groups Iran—whose coastline dominates the entire northern half of the crucial waterway—with Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Iraq which all have access to the Persian Gulf.

The Kuwait session was held March 29-30 to discuss ways of fighting water pollution and sweeping mines laid during the 8 years Iraqi-imposed war.

70 Iraqi POW's Released, Flown to Baghdad

LD1004081989 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Iran today unilaterally released 70 more disabled and ill Iraqi POW's, all military personnel, but four of them refused to return and asked for political asylum.

The group released on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran (April 1), flew to Baghdad via Turkey on a Red Crescent plane. One officer and an NCO are among those released.

The POW's were presented with gifts of Iranian handicrafts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in 19 stages has released 1,346 disabled Iraqi POW's, but Iraq has only freed 949 Iranian POW's, including 459 civilians.

Refugees To Return to Cities in Khuzestan

NC1004070689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Some 200,000 refugees from the imposed war who are from Khuzestan Province are to return to their cities during the current [Iranian] year. This was stated by the Khuzestan governor-general in an interview with correspondents yesterday. He also added that programs for the refugees to return to Abadan and the surrounding villages and for rebuilding houses and commercial and service centers will be announced soon. He said that in view of the fact that by Mehr [month beginning 23 September] this year about 50,000 Abadan residents will return to the city, the Department of Education has been assigned to rebuild a number of the city's schools so they can operate in the coming academic year.

On ways to rebuild the city, he said: Reconstruction will first begin with buildings that have less damage, which can be repaired in a short time. In this program, a balance will be maintained between reconstructing houses and the commercial and service centers which will be used by the city's residents.

Continuing his remarks, the Khuzestan governor-general said that during the visits by the president and the Majlis speaker to the province, orders were issued on using the Armed Forces' resources in reconstruction and in overcoming the problems of moving Abadan residents and those from the villages west and east of the Bahmanshir River who intend to rebuild their houses and revive the palm groves. He added that the Ministry of Power has been assigned the task of preparing and implementing the plan for potable water in Masjed-e Soleyman.

He added that during these visits, the acting commander in chief agreed that some foreign exchange and rial credits from the war allocations will be placed at the province's disposal to equip some of Khuzestan Province's hospitals and to purchase equipment necessary to treat kidney patients.

The Khuzestan governor-general also said that during Prime Minister Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit to Khuzestan Province, it was agreed that 25,000 gas cooling devices would be purchased for the province, especially for the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Commentary Assesses Upcoming Talks With Iraq

NC0904102989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0700 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] Following the trip by the UN secretary general's special envoy to Iran and his discussions with our country's political and military officials, the Islamic Republic has sent a delegation to New York, where it will hold talks with the UN secretary general and his representative to prepare for the new round of talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers.

Both during their talks with the UN secretary general's representative in Tehran, and during their recent discussions with Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Islamic Republic's officials emphasized the need to implement Resolution 598 precisely. They also called for unconditional and immediate implementation of the resolution's first article; namely, the withdrawal of military forces to international borders. In addition, the cease-fire violations committed by the Iraqi regime were reported to the UN secretary general, and the Ba'thist leaders' policy of ignoring Resolution 598 was once again proved.

At a time when the Islamic Republic's acceptance of Resolution 598 has prepared the region for a lasting peace, the heads of the Iraqi regime, by repeatedly violating the cease-fire along the two countries' borders, are practically declaring their opposition to the establishment of a cease-fire to be followed by a lasting peace in the region. This evil intention on the part of the Iraqi regime was proven by the Islamic Republic in the very first days after the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

With their repeated obstructions throughout the 8 months since the cease-fire was established in the Iran-Iraq war, the Ba'thist leaders have prevented even the first article of Resolution 598 from being implemented. They also have continued to maintain the presence of their forces in parts of Iranian territory and have practically proven their nonobservance of international laws.

The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran thus far have adopted a tolerant position vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime's obstructions. They always have tried to further inform public opinion about the truth by stating their just principles and positions and by revealing the Iraqi leaders' ploys. Fortunately, these... [unexplained several second break in transmission]... have been effective; and now all the justice-seekers of the world have become aware of the Iraqi regime's approach to Resolution 598. A regime that advocated peace and reconciliation and the implementation of international laws for years on end, now has nothing to say before the world's public opinion.

The UN secretary general and the others involved in this should know that, although the tolerance of Iranian nation and its officials may be great, it has its limits. The UN secretary general should think of ways to fully implement Resolution 598 and force the Iraqi regime by any possible method to accept this resolution unconditionally.

UN circles have stated that 20 April has been set as the date for the next meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq. This will be a good opportunity for Iraq to prove its goodwill. If it does not, the region will face a vague future in which the UN secretary general and his advisers and representatives, as well as the Iraqi regime, will have played a basic role in shaping.

Commentary on Arrest of Egyptian Clergyman
NC1004084089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0444 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] In the name of God. 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, the combatant Egyptian clergyman, was arrested after clashes on Friday in Al-Fayyum, 100 kilometers southwest of Cairo. This arrest has once again drawn the attention of public opinion to the dispersed but extensive disquiet which has intensified during the past few years in Egypt. The various policies of Husni Mubarak's government have been unable to effectively calm this disquiet.

'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, who is known by some as the leader of the Al-Jihad Organization and who was arrested and imprisoned after the revolutionary execution of Al-Sadat, has continued his tireless struggles against Husni Mubarak's regime during the past years and has been repeatedly imprisoned.

Last Friday he was arrested while he was delivering the Friday prayers sermons in the Al-Shuhada' Mosque in Al-Fayyum and was calling on Muslims to demonstrate against the ruling system. Police forces who raided the mosque clashed with the demonstrators. Foreign news agencies report that during these clashes, some were killed or wounded and that the Egyptian police arrested at least 35 Muslims.

The troubles in Al-Fayyum and the arrest of the notable Egyptian clergyman, who is described in the Egyptian press as the leader and the imam of the Al-Jihad Organization, is a sign of the sensitivity the Egyptian regime has toward Islamic activities in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

Egyptian youth, who are disillusioned by the policies of their leaders and of the superpowers, have returned to Islamic ideals. These youth form a large portion of the Egyptian society. The greatest attempt by this large group, which operates in the form of covert or quasi-covert organizations, was the assassination of Al-Sadat 8 years ago in 1981.

Husni Mubarak's regime started to look for ways to confront the fact that the youth have started going to mosques. By nationalizing the management of the mosques, it intended to prevent their being turned into hearths for anti-regime activities. Thus, the government undertook to manage tens of thousands of congregational imams and preachers who were approved by the regime.

Even though this step by the Husni Mubarak government created difficulties for the revolutionary Muslims of Egypt, the youths' protest movements in the form of congregational prayer sessions or independent debate sessions nevertheless defeated this step. The infiltration of Islamic groups into the management affairs of various universities in the country and the amplification of the infiltration and activities of the Muslim revolutionaries among the Armed Forces' ranks have increased the extent of Islamic activities in Egypt. Foreign news agencies' reports from Egypt indicate that the Egyptian society's inclination toward religious customs such as daily prayer sessions started years ago and that the Egyptian regime's efforts to confront this Islamic wave have been defeated.

The auspicious month of Ramadan, which is the month of prayer and when humans turn to God, is of special importance for the Egyptian society as it is witnessing more intense Islamic activities. In previous years, extensive clashes took place in various Egyptian cities during this month. Each time the reason for the clashes was the direct attempt by Muslim Egyptian youths to hold prayer ceremonies freely because, as stated previously, all the mosques in Egypt are under government control and the youths try to hold separate ceremonies to protest this policy and in order to express their rejection of the imamate of clergymen appointed by the government.

These protests in last year's 'Id al-Fitr led to strong clashes in Cairo and Alexandria. The worshippers, who wanted to hold non-governmental 'Id al-Fitr ceremonies, clashed with the police. As a result, at least 88 were wounded and 34 arrested.

Thus, the Egyptian Government's strong confrontation with the Muslims of Al-Fayyum, which led to the arrest of 35 people including Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman at

the beginning of Ramada
Mubarak Government's sdan, is a sign of the Husni clashes and Islamic activitensitivity toward and fear of these arrests, the Egyptian ities during this month. With warn its Islamic opponent regime may have wanted to this shows that the currents about their activities. But special importance for the nt month of Ramadan is of that the Husni Mubarak re zealous Egyptian society and methods in confronting its egime will resort to its usual s opponents.

Tehran TV Reviews Situ
ation in Lebanon
NC0904062189 Tehran Tele levision Service in Persian
1615 GMT 7 Apr 89

["Special Report" from the e "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] The tension in Be
days, and despite the ceasebeirut has continued in recent member committee for solve-fire proposed by the seven- time that the cease-fire has lving the Lebanese crisis, each or another, the Christian se been violated on one pretext Muslim sector in West Beisector in East Beirut and the heavy artillery and mortar fiirut have been the targets of past, the Syrian Governmefire. [passage omitted] In the calculated role, to prevent nent has tried, by playing a balance among the forces in the upset of the traditional n Lebanon. [passage omitted]
The recent incidents show
Lebanon have progressed inw that the developments in did in the past, and becausein a different way than they years, Syria has found itself se of its marked role in past the problem. Syria has so f more and more involved in country that has resisted Zo far been recognized as a East, and this is why it enjoysZionist plots in the Middle Lebanon's combatant forces ys a favorable position among s.
However, recent incidents sh
to play a role in Lebanon, ashow that more players want not only on Lebanon but onand this stems from designs Middle East. It may possiblyon almost all hotbeds in the one should consider the fresly be, with this in mind, that the recent overtures by the sh tensions in Lebanon and 'Awn, as part of a calculatece Maronite general, Michel prepared, more than anythinged scenario which has been of Islamic resistance and Syriang else, against the position has apparently been assigned ria in Lebanon—a plot which ment. [passage omitted] ed to Michel 'Awn to imple-

Undoubtedly, one of the majo
war in Lebanon is to weakajor reasons behind the recent Syria's role in Lebanon. Apaken Islamic resistance and this has led some governmen apparently, an agreement on to try—with the blessings nts, namely the Iraqi regime, governments—to strengthen s and guidance of Western achieve their many-faceted gn the Maronites in order to to be aimed, under current cit goals. This plan may appear of the sides involved in Lebancircumstances, at Syria as one Lebanon's Islamic resistanon. However, undoubtedly nation, and the Islamic identince, the existence of this ntity of its people will also be threatened. For this reason one can well understand the need for the region's Islamic and progressive forces to decisively confront such acts.

The visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati to Damascus and the detailed talks among Iranian delegations, Syrian officials, and Lebanon's Islamic and national resistance forces are assessed within this framework, and there is definitely a serious need to strengthen the progressive and Islamic front in the region in order to confront the calculated plans by the Zionists and by arrogant powers. Any negligence in this matter can have unfavorable results. Experience has shown that with the unity of Islamic and progressive forces, such plots and instigations—however extensive they may be—will not materialize.

Commentary on Howe's Visit to India, Pakistan
NC0804171989 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1615 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] Last week UK Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe visited the Indian Subcontinent. In addition to his political talks with Indian and Pakistani statesmen, what attracted world attention more than anything else were the protests by the Muslims of the Indian Subcontinent against Britain's anti-Islamic policies.

It appears that the British Government was wrong in its calculations in assessing the extent of opposition by the world's Muslims to the publication of the Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book. The extent of the protests in Pakistan was such that Howe spectaunexpectedly cut short his stay there and had to use a helicopter instead of the car that had been planned. Moreover, upon his arrival in Islamabad, he was handed a letter of protest signed by major political-religious personalities and by the Islamic 'ulema and scholars of Pakistan.

The situation in New Delhi was similar, and Howe witnessed the protest by the Muslims of India against his government's anti-Islamic policies.

Even though many observers believe that Howe's visit to the Indian Subcontinent was a futile effort by the Thatcher government to ameliorate the great rage felt by the Muslims of the region over Salman Rushdie's book, nevertheless it seems that the British once again miscalculated. The British Government definitely did not expect such an explosion of Muslim outrage; it was caught completely by surprise during Howe's visit to the Indian Subcontinent. The cancellation of his visits to some cities is proof of this.

There is a strong suspicion that following its efforts to portray the issue of opposition to Salman Rushdie and his blasphemous book as an issue which only the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned with, Britain sent Howe to

the Indian Subcontinent. But it there faced yet another defeat. The demonstrations and protests by Muslims upon Howe's arrival in India and Pakistan and the continuation of these protests throughout his stay in the subcontinent made it clear that first of all, the Rushdie affair is not exclusively Iranian but involves the entire Islamic world.

Moreover, the decree on Rushdie's punishment and on the sanctions on "The Satanic Verses" is supported by the entire Islamic world. Second, the British Government will never be able to extinguish the wrath of the world's Muslims by sending a representative to Islamic countries. The world of Islam will only calm down when Britain clearly confesses to the mistakes it committed in publishing the blasphemous Rushdie book, when it recalls copies sold, and it halts the future printing of this book.

Howe also met with some leaders of the Afghan mujahidin in Pakistan. Reports indicate that in answer to a request by the interim mujahidin government for official recognition, Howe claimed that the time is not yet ripe. He also said that the people of Afghanistan need time in order to establish a government which will be acceptable to all. However, he did not clarify when this will be as far as the British are concerned, or when this time is likely to come.

Commentary on Situation, Solution in Afghanistan
NC0804184689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] The intense wars over control of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan have apparently died down. This is important within the context of preliminary expectations on the possible occupation of the city by the mujahidin and the establishment of the interim government there.

In the Jalalabad war, the Kabul regime's forces suffered heavy losses and the mujahidin scored spectacular successes at some junctures of the battle. However, on the whole, the outcome did not meet expectations. Whatever the reason for this, one cannot doubt the fact that preliminary calculations were coupled with unnecessary optimism and that the differences in shifting from guerrilla war to an organized conventional war were underestimated.

The mujahidin, who had valuable experience in guerrilla warfare, did not fully use that very powerful experience in a full-scale war with the Afghanistan Army around Jalalabad, and despite their spectacular military supremacy, they did not achieve all the pre-planned objectives.

Thus, the war in Afghanistan once again faces a deadlock. This can have various impacts: It will require a re-evaluation of the balance of power between the belligerent sides and also, at the same time, it will create a generally more favorable atmosphere for a political solution. The Kabul regime's recent proposals to military commanders inside the country that they accept a ceasefire—while keeping their arms and assuming the security of the areas under their control—becomes meaningful within this context.

Parallel to such tempting proposals, Najibullah's regime has started extensive diplomatic activities on the international scene in an effort to show that he is there to stay. The remarks by 'Abdol Wakil, the Kabul regime's foreign minister, on the fact that Afghanistan's political system will be neither socialist or communist in nature from now on, that Islam will be considered the basis for law, and that whatever has been done in Afghanistan so far was a mistake, is not considered merely a confession by the Kabul regime. The regime's foreign minister is addressing the outside world.

Instilling trust in the West and especially in the United States that the Kabul regime is amending past mistakes is one of the objectives that complements Najibullah's request to the United Nations to intervene and establish forces on the joint Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The propaganda pressure by the Kabul regime and by the Soviet Union on Pakistan over the allegation that the Pakistani Army is seriously supporting the Afghan mujahidin has actually increased in order to attract the UN's attention to possible dangers that may put Afghanistan and Pakistan on opposite sides in the future.

Wali Khan's recent remarks in Peshawar and the accusations he has made against the Pakistani Army are not separate from these developments, and it is thought that the Kabul regime may have been thinking of putting pressures on Pakistan in a bid to end its problems. The announcement on the dispatch of medicined and foodstuffs to Kabul from New Delhi should be viewed within this context. It should also be taken into consideration that the conflicts in the Indian-Pakistani area are gradually being drawn into Afghanistan. This is something which will, at any rate, complicate the situation in Afghanistan and will have an impact on the security of the entire region.

It is at such a sensitive juncture in Afghanistan's history that the formula for a solution of the problem appears to be in the hands of the mujahidin. And as the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated, the unity of all groups and their assumption of roles in all political-military developments can be the only trustworthy solution. Any other move will inevitably pave the way for more foreign influence and will prevent the Muslim Afghan people from achieving their objectives. The unity of forces and the establishment of a nonaligned Islamic government that will meet the wants of all strata of Afghan people is a historic necessity, and a national and Islamic mission.

Draft Cooperation Agreement With PRC Signed

LD0704194189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Kazeruni, the minister of housing and urban planning, who has been visiting the People's Republic of China at the head of a delegation, announced last night upon his return from that country that the draft of a cooperation agreement between the two countries was signed in Beijing. The agreement concerns research, building, and urban development, the provision of raw materials, and housing construction technology.

The minister of housing and urban planning added that one of the topics of discussion with the Chinese officials dealt with the visit of our country's president to China.

Japan Firm Awarded Petrochemical Plant Contract

OW0704123389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Nissho Iwai Corp. has been awarded a 20 billion yen petrochemical plant supply contract by Iran's state-run National Petrochemical Company (NPC), company officials said Friday.

This is the largest deal clinched between a Japanese business firm and Iran since the end of the Iran-Iraq War last August, the officials said.

They said the plant on order is intended to produce aromatics like benzene and xylene from naphtha. It will be built in Esfahan, 400 kilometers south of Tehran, they said.

Since Iran is now short of foreign currencies and since Iran has banned foreign loans, a grace period of 2 years or more will be granted to NPC, they added.

Cabinet Hears Reconstruction Plan Report

LD0904191389 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Reconstruction of war-damaged areas except cities totally demolished during the 8-year Iraqi aggression would be completed by the end of the current calendar year (March 20, 1990), a senior official said Sunday.

Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy premier and head of the reconstruction HQ, said that half of the residents of Abadan and Khorramshahr, would be settled in their home towns by next March and the rest would be rehabilitated by 1991.

He made the remarks in a report to the Cabinet on the progress of reconstruction projects in western and southern Iran.

The Cabinet also heard a report on floods in the southeastern region of Sistan and relief aid provided for the flood-stricken people.

Opium, Heroin, Money Seized in Gorgan

LD1004090789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Through the efforts of Gorgan's Islamic Revolution Committee officials, over 91 kgs of narcotics were discovered in the possession of smugglers. According to the Central News Unit, during the past week in a 2-stage plan, 91 kgs opium, 30 gms heroin, 500 gms opium residue, and also 1.3 million rials in cash were discovered in the possession of four drug-smugglers, and seized. In addition, one car and two motorcycles were found in the possession of the accused which were sent, along with their dossiers, to Gorgan's Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office.

Editorial Examines Duty To Defend Masses

NC0704110889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial entitled: "Reciprocal Duty"]

[Excerpts] If defending Hezbollah is an unflinching principle of the Islamic Republic's policy, then the high-ranking directors and officials of the country should definitely take serious steps to defend Hezbollah with more than words, slogans, and policy statements.

In his recent message, the imam of the ummah clarifies the duty of the Islamic Republic's officials concerning the people and clearly sets the guiding line for the practical defense of Hezbollah. [passage omitted]

During the past 10 years, Hezbollah has shown that it is ready to sacrifice itself for Islam and for defending Islam's banner wherever and whenever necessry. [passage omitted]

The people have carried out their duty, and they are always ready to carry out any duty at any time for the sake of Islam and the revolution. What is important is that the officials should reciprocate. [passage omitted]

The truth is that the people—that is, the true owners of the revolution who have been referred to in the imam's message as "Hezbollah"—do not expect much from the officials. Their only expectation is that the country's capabilities be correctly and justly put into the hands of the people. Among the problems making the people suffer are inadmissible discrimination, the fact that the capitalist leeches are free to suck the blood of the people, and that hoarders and profiteers have a free hand to do as they please. Recently the government has not been controlling prices, and godless profiteers are stealing as much as they can from the people. The people are prepared to fast and tolerate all shortages, difficulties, and pressures so that the

revolution can reach its objectives. However, they are not willing to tolerate extortions, plundering, hoarding, and profiteering by capitalist leeches.

The heavy burden of high prices and inflation which benefit the profiteering and rich minority, who are alien to the revolution, lies on the shoulders of the deprived masses. Therefore, the more officials show indifference to these problems, the more the pressure on Hezbollah will increase. However, this pressure can be eliminated if decisive steps are taken.

The implementation of the law on [state] punishments, which was approved by the Expediency Discernment Council and handed over to the government and the judiciary, should not become emeshed in red tape and bureaucracy. Everyone is counting the minutes for this law's implementation, hoping that this time the leeches, who are sucking the blood of the people and still not satisfying their greed, will be confronted decisively. The truth is that only if this happens can it be said that the officials have carried out part of their duty in the administration of the people. Definitely, only then can the grounds for attaining the main goals of the revolution be paved for the government and the nation.

MKO Claims Members Executed as Drug Smugglers

LD0904174189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers 0230 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization of Iran has disclosed that the regime has executed a group of persons supporting their organization as well as other political prisoners in the process of the waves of executions of narcotics traffickers. The Mojahedin radio has stated that a number of those executed in the cities of Hamadan, Karaj, Amol, and Semnan, who the regime hanged as drug smugglers, were supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

Previously, other reports indicated that the regime has been embarking on the execution of a number of political prisoners under the guise of combating narcotics smugglers. This devious measure demonstrates how the rulers fear the resistance prisoners and shows how they fear Iranian and world public opinion with the exposure of their crimes being committed in prisons.

Pakistan

Bhutto Chairs Cabinet, Economic Meetings

BK1004155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The cabinet met in Rawalpindi today with Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in the chair. Noting the fact that the meeting was being held on the same day that a large number of people had been killed or injured in the Ojri camp [arms dump blast] last year, the Cabinet prayed for the salvation of the souls of those killed and for the welfare of the injured.

The Cabinet reviewed the implementation of the People's Program and took various decisions to accelerate the work in this regard. The Cabinet approved a legal proposal to deal with [words indistinct] land. It also approved the Pakistan-PRC agreement on incentives for and promotion of investments.

The prime minister also presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet. The committee was informed that all possible efforts are being made to immediately unload the imported wheat from ships and to supply it to all parts of the country.

The committee was also informed that there is no shortage of wheat in any part of the country and the situation will improve further with the harvesting of the new crop. It directed the provincial governments to keep a strict watch on the wheat supply situation during Ramadan. The federal government will meet all requirements of the provincial governments. The committee was told that provincial governments have collected [from the federal reserve] nearly 600,000 tons of wheat so far.

Decisions on Dealing With Law, Order in Sind

BK1104161889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Important decisions to take measures to deal with the law and order situation in Sind and to improve the working of law enforcing agencies were taken at a high-level meeting in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, presided over the meeting. In view of the special problems in Sind, particularly in Karachi, arising out of illegal emergence in terrorist activities, the existing strength of Sind police has been increased by 7,000 personnel with immediate effect. The strength of rangers is also being raised by 5,000 personnel from July this year. This would help increase the existing police population ratio.

The meeting decided to set up a special task force in the form of an intelligence cell to deal with the sale and supply of illegal arms in Sind. A number of decisions were also taken to upgrade the training of police personnel about providing additional and proper facilities in the police training institutions.

Bhutto To Pay 'Official Visit' to U.S. 5 Jun

BK1104111489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, will pay an official visit to the United States from the 5th of June at the invitation of President George Bush. It has been officially announced in Islamabad that she will hold talks with the American President and meet congressional leaders, some senior cabinet members, and prominent media personalities.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the prime minister's visit will offer first major opportunity for a comprehensive exchange of views between the leaders of Pakistan and the United States, following induction of the democratically elected government in Pakistan.

SAARC Plan Against Drug Abuse Approved

BK0804033089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] technical committee [on prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse] has agreed to launch a plan of action to observe 1989 as the year of combating drug abuse and drug trafficking. The action plan prepared by Pakistan has been approved at the just concluded meeting of the SAARC technical committee in Islamabad.

According to the plan, each member country will launch a campaign through use of press, radio, television, and distribution of informative materials to educate the people about the adverse effects of drug abuse. The plan suggests that the 8th of December this year be observed as a day against drug abuse in all SAARC member countries.

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